

REPORT

FROM

The Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War, and of the Navy, of the Postmaster General, and of the Attorney General, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 5th March last, in relation to the compensation and classification of the clerks in the several Executive Departments.

MAY 15, 1838.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, May 11, 1838.

The Secretary of State, of the Treasury, of War, of the Navy, the Postmaster General, and the Attorney General, with reference to the resolutions of the Senate of the 9th of March last, requesting information regarding the clerks employed in the several departments, and the bureaus connected therewith, have the honor to report: That the bill, No. 886, presented by the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, on the 27th of January, 1837, at the 2d session of the 24th Congress, contains, in their opinion, a proper general classification and arrangement of the clerks in the respective departments therein named, and, if adopted by Congress, should be extended to the Post Office Department. The number of clerks requisite or proper in each class, is designated by the different Secretaries, &c., in their respective reports, herewith transmitted.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN FORSYTH,
LEVI WOODBURY,
J. R. POINSETT,
M. DICKERSON,
AMOS KENDALL.

To the SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, March 28, 1838.

The undersigned, Secretary of State, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 9th instant, so far as it is addressed to him, has the honor to report:

1st. That there are now eight rates of compensation established by law for the clerks in his department; which, as well as the additional per cent-

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ages authorized by the act of the 3d of March, 1837, to be continued to the end of the present session of Congress, are here noted, viz :

Number at each rate.	Salaries by law established.	Additional per centum.	Salary, with the additional per centage.
One, the chief clerk -	\$2,000		\$2,000
Two, at the rate, each, of -	1,600	10 per cent.	1,760
One at - - - -	1,500	10 per cent.	1,650
One at - - - -	1,450	10 per cent.	1,595
Six, at the rate, each, of -	1,400	10 per cent.	1,540
One at - - - -	1,000	20 per cent.	1,200
One at - - - -	900	20 per cent.	1,080
One at - - - -	800	20 per cent.	960

2d. For the classification of the clerks, and the labor, &c., performed, he begs leave to refer to the annexed paper, marked A, being a copy of the arrangement adopted in the department with respect to the clerks, and to the distribution of their duties.

3d. He suggests that there should be four grades of clerks in his department, in addition to the chief clerk, with salaries as follows :

To the chief clerk employed under the act of July 27,

1789 - - - - -	\$2,500 per annum.
The first grade - - - - -	1,800 per annum.
The second grade - - - - -	1,600 per annum.
The third grade - - - - -	1,400 per annum.
The fourth grade - - - - -	1,200 per annum.

And that there should be five of the first grade, including the disbursing agent, to whom it is proposed to annex the duties of the superintendent of the building, without the salary attached to that office, \$250, which he now receives out of the appropriation for the superintendent and watchmen of the northeast executive building, which appropriation might, in that case, be reduced so much :

Five of the second grade ;
Two of the third grade ; and
Two of the fourth grade ;

Making one additional clerk, to whom would be assigned, in addition to other duties, the packing and forwarding of the laws, and of such documents as are, or may be, ordered to be distributed by this department, which services are now paid for out of the fund for the incidental and contingent expenses of the Department of State, &c.

A separate report, with regard to the clerks in the Patent Office, has been prepared by the Commissioner of Patents, and is annexed, marked B.

He has the honor to annex, also, a copy of a communication addressed to the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Rep.

representatives, of the 26th of January, 1837, enclosing a copy of one to the same, of the 18th of February, 1836, explanatory of the duties of the different clerks, and the qualifications requisite for their performance, marked C.

JOHN FORSYTH.

A.

The following arrangement of the gentlemen employed, the distribution of their duties, and rules for their performance, will be observed in the Department of State, from and after the 30th of November, 1836.

I. THE CHIEF CLERK.

The duties of this officer will be such, in all respects, as appertain to under Secretary of State. He will exercise an immediate superintendence over the duties of the respective bureaus, and over those employed in them. He will receive the directions of the Secretary on matters requiring the action of the department. He will promptly report all acts of negligence or misconduct to the Secretary. By the act of 27th July, 1789, the chief clerk is to be employed in the department as the Secretary shall deem proper, and is to have the charge and custody of all records, books, and papers, appertaining to the department, whenever the Secretary shall be removed from office, or in any other case of vacancy.

Mr. holds the appointment of chief clerk, at an annual salary of \$

II. THE DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

Will have charge of the correspondence between the department and the ministers, and other diplomatic agents of the United States; and also between the department and the ministers and other diplomatic agents of foreign powers in the United States; will copy and record the diplomatic despatches prepared in the department, and file and preserve those received at the department; prepare and record credential letters; prepare treaties for signature, ratification, and exchange, and proclamations of treaties, and record the same, and prepare such draughts of letters as may be necessary; and, generally, will attend to all matters appertaining to the diplomatic affairs of the United States.

An index will be kept for each mission, in which the purport of each despatch prepared or received at the department is to be promptly entered.

The record of the communications made by the Department of State to each mission, from or to the United States, will be kept in a separate book.

A synopsis of the concerns of each mission will be kept, and continued monthly, or oftener, if required.

There will be kept, besides, a daily register of all communications received, to be filed in this bureau, and of the action of the department thereon, and of each communication prepared in the bureau, in relation to diplomatic affairs; the substance of each communication to be stated as briefly as possible. In this register will be noted such other matters as may be directed. This register will be daily submitted to the Secretary.

Newspapers, and such documents published by this Government as may be useful, will be transmitted to the several missions abroad, of which transmission a note shall be made in the register.

In this bureau will be regularly kept a record of the arrival of foreign ministers, *chargés d'affaires*, and consuls general, the date of their presentation, the time of their leaving the Government, and the circumstances of their departure.

The duties of this bureau will be performed by three clerks, viz :

Mr. , at an annual salary of \$, will have special charge of the missions to and from, and the relations with, England, France, Russia, and the Netherlands.

Mr. , at an annual salary of \$, will have special charge of the missions to and from, and the relations with, all the other countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and of the consular affairs with Tripoli, Tunis, and Morocco.

Mr. , at an annual salary of \$, will have special charge of the missions to and from, and the relations with, the countries in North and South America.

III. THE CONSULAR BUREAU

Will have charge of the correspondence with the consuls of the United States ; will record all communications made to them by the department, and file and preserve all those received from them, together with their statements and reports ; and, generally, have charge of all business appertaining to the consular concerns of the department.

An index will be kept for each consulate, in which the purport of each communication to or from the department, is to be properly entered. A daily register will also be kept, in which the consular communications will be noted as soon as they are received, with the action of the department thereon. This register will be daily submitted to the Secretary.

The record of the communications made by the department to the consuls within the limits of each independent Government in Europe and America, will be kept in a separate book, with the exception of those in Turkey.

The communications made to the several consuls in Asia, and in the dominions of the Ottoman Porte, will be recorded in one book.

In this bureau will be kept a digest of the commercial regulations of each foreign country with which the United States have intercourse. The digest compiled under a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 3d of March, 1831, will be the basis, as far as it goes ; and all corrections, additions, and alterations reported by the consuls or transmitted by the diplomatic agents of the United States, will be promptly and carefully entered in books to be kept for that purpose. To aid in completing this digest, such publications as contain authentic information on the subjects to be embraced in it are to be sent to this bureau, from time to time, as received by the librarian, and extracts from despatches and papers by the diplomatic bureau.

The business of this bureau will be performed by three clerks, viz :

Mr. , at an annual salary of \$, will have special charge of the consulates in England, France, Russia, and the Netherlands, and their respective colonies.

Mr. _____, at an annual salary of \$ _____, will have special charge of the consulates in all the other countries in Europe and Asia, and their colonies.

Mr. _____, at an annual salary of \$ _____, will have special charge of the consulates in all the independent States in North and South America, West Indies, and islands of the Pacific.

IV. THE HOME BUREAU,

1. Will take charge of and register the returns of passengers from foreign ports, and the abstracts of registered seamen, and prepare annual statements thereof for Congress.

It will be charged with recording the domestic and miscellaneous correspondence.

It will have the care of those treaties and foreign presents which are permitted to be shown.

The duties of this division of the bureau will be performed by one clerk, Mr. _____, at a salary of \$ _____.

2. This bureau will, also, have charge of all the domestic correspondence of the department, which does not appertain to the business of some other bureau, and will file and register the letters received, on the business confided to the bureau.

It will have charge of making out and recording commissions; of preparing statements of vacancies occurring, and of expiring commissions; of making out and recording exequaturs granted to consuls; of receiving and filing applications for office; of preparing certificates to be authenticated under the seal of the department.

It will have charge of the seals of the United States and of the Department of State.

It will also be charged with collecting and preserving, in the library of the department, the statutes of the different States, required by law to be collected and preserved in the department.

It will likewise have charge of the library, and of the arrangement and preservation of the books, maps, documents, and papers therein, and of keeping an accurate catalogue thereof, and a register of all books taken out, and of their return. The library will be subject to the regulations prescribed therefor.

The duties of this division of the bureau will be performed by one clerk, Mr. _____, at an annual salary of \$ _____.

3. This bureau will also be charged with filing and preserving petitions for pardons and remissions, and with preparing and recording pardons and remissions, and with the correspondence relating thereto.

It will make out and record personal and special passports, and prepare the letters relating to the same.

It will be charged with keeping a daily register of all letters received other than diplomatic and consular, and of the disposition thereof, and of the action of the department thereon.

To enable it to make the proper entries in this register, each bureau, except the diplomatic and consular, will send to this bureau the purport of any answer, as soon as prepared, or, where no answer is given, the disposition made of the letter. This register will be daily submitted to the Secretary.

It will be charged with forwarding despatches to ministers and consuls, and keeping a register of the same, and with corresponding with the despatch agents, and will assist in recording and copying generally.

The duties of this division of the bureau will be performed by one clerk, Mr. , at an annual salary of \$.

4. This bureau will likewise be charged with filing and preserving the returns of copyrights, and registering the copyright books, which, by law, are directed to be transmitted to, or deposited in, the Department of State, and with preparing the letters relating to the same. It will record reports to the President, and the two Houses of Congress, or their committees; and will assist in recording and copying generally.

The duties of this division of the bureau will be performed by one clerk, Mr. , at the annual salary of \$.

V. THE KEEPER OF THE ARCHIVES

Will have charge of the archives of the department, other than diplomatic and consular, and the arrangement thereof; will prepare answers to inquiries relative thereto, and give copies when required.

He will be charged with the care of the rolls of the laws, and with the recording, publication, and distribution, of the laws; and also with distributing the messages of the President, and reports of heads of departments, and other public documents and publications, to be distributed by the Department of State.

These duties will be performed by one clerk, viz: Mr. , at a salary of \$.

VI. THE TRANSLATOR

Will be charged with translating all letters, papers, and documents, in a foreign language, relating to the business and duties of the department. The translation is to be made immediately after the receipt of the original, and is to be filed with it in the proper bureau.

He will also be charged with such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him.

These duties will be performed by one clerk, Mr. , at an annual salary of \$.

VII. THE DISBURSING AGENT

Will be charged with making purchases for the department, and disbursing the fund for its expenses, including the expense of publishing and distributing the laws; also with making payments when specially authorized, from such appropriations, under the control of the President and Secretary of State, as are placed in his hands for disbursement; also with preparing for the signature of the Secretary, and registering requisitions for the payment of the authorized drafts of ministers and agents abroad. He will prepare and record the correspondence relating to the business with which he is charged. He will also make proper entries, in one or more books to be kept for that purpose, of all moneys received and disbursed by him, under each head of appropriation, and will render accounts thereof quarterly, for settlement, at the Treasury.

These duties will be performed by one clerk, Mr. _____, at a salary of \$ _____. Mr. _____ is also superintendent of the building occupied by the department, for which he receives an annual compensation of \$250.

Notwithstanding the foregoing particular distribution of duties, each clerk will, from time to time, perform such other duties as the public service may render necessary, and as shall be directed by the Secretary. And if, at any time, any gentleman find that the duties assigned to him are insufficient to occupy him during office hours, he will report the fact to the Secretary.

The business of each bureau will be preserved in confidence, by the person and persons employed therein; and all business committed to any of the clerks will be by them treated as of a confidential nature, and on no occasion whatever to be divulged.

No diplomatic communications, nor any others of a confidential or important character, will be sent for signature by the messengers.

The records and papers of the department are to be kept in locked cases, except when in actual use.

On ordinary occasions, communications between the Secretary of State and the gentlemen employed in the department, and applications for information or direction, excepting as to matters of account, will be made through the chief clerk, unless specially invited by the Secretary.

All letters and other communications received at the department will be acknowledged, and, where necessary, answered in detail, as soon as practicable after they are received.

All business referred to the respective clerks will be finally acted upon and disposed of on the day of the reference, unless for good cause, to be made apparent; so that the business of one day shall not be left to accumulate for another.

Copies of papers on file or of record in the department shall not be given except to individuals having an interest in them, or at their request; and no copy of any letter or despatch relating to the business of the diplomatic or consular bureau, shall be given without the express direction of the President of the United States, or the Secretary of State.

No letter will be written relative to the business of the department without the approbation of the Secretary.

A report will be made to the Secretary as soon as practicable, by each clerk, of the actual state of his business, accompanied with a list of the books of record in his charge, and their present condition.

No clerk will be absent from the department between the hours of 9, A. M., and 3, P. M., each day, (unless in case of sickness,) without special permission. The department will also be kept open for the transaction of business from 8 o'clock to 9, and from 3 o'clock to 4, between the 1st of October and the 1st of April; and from 8 o'clock to 9, and from 3 o'clock to 6, between the 1st of April and 1st of October; during which hours, such attendance will be given as the Secretary may deem necessary to the public service. When, from indisposition or any unforeseen cause, the attendance of any clerk during the day may be impracticable, he will give the earliest notice thereof to the chief clerk. If any one shall desire leave of absence for a longer period than twenty four hours, he will submit his application to the Secretary, in writing, noting the reasons of his request, and the length of time he desires to be absent.

All foreign newspapers, after they shall have been perused by the Secretary and chief clerk, shall be committed to the diplomatic bureau; and such articles as may be deemed worthy of the particular notice of the Secretary, are to be marked, and, if in a foreign language, translated, and submitted to the Secretary. Foreign newspapers are not to be lent to persons unconnected with the department, without the permission of the Secretary.

These rules will be altered, or modified, or added to, from time to time, as the state of the service may require, and as the Secretary may in his judgment direct.

JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State.

B.

PATENT OFFICE,
March 29, 1838.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a report in relation to the duties and compensation of the several clerks employed in this office.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

H. L. ELLSWORTH.

HON. JOHN FORSYTH,

Secretary of State.

REPORT

In relation to the duties and compensation of the clerks employed in the Patent Office.

Salary.

J. W. Hand, chief clerk	-	-	-	-	\$1,700
Thomas P. Jones, examiner	-	-	-	-	1,500
Charles M. Keller, examiner	-	-	-	-	1,500
Henry Stone, draughtsman	-	-	-	-	1,200
—executes all drawings required; is charged with the arrangement and care of all drawings furnished by patentees.					
Thomas Johns, second clerk	-	-	-	-	1,200
—has charge of the files and records of the office; aids in the correspondence; furnishes certified and office copies of patents, specifications, and assignments; superintends the recording of assignments, transfers, and disclaimers; enters the withdrawals, files the vouchers on abandoned applications, and keeps the contingent and salary accounts of the office.					
J. J. Roane, clerk of patents	-	-	-	-	1,000
—makes out patents on parchment; examines them with original specifications; heads the same and enters them in the book of					

heads; has charge of the records of renewed, re-issued, and additional letters patent; directs and sends out patents, and has charge of all specifications on file.

Lewis F. Fales, recording clerk	-	-	-	-	\$800
Hazard Knowles, machinist	-	-	-	-	1,250
—is charged with the classification, safe keeping, and repairs of all models in the office, keeps an account of all models, their character, &c.					
Henry Bishop, messenger	-	-	-	-	700

It is but bare justice to the gentlemen employed in this office to state my conviction that their duties are at least as arduous, and are performed with as much fidelity, as those of any other bureau in the Government, and that their compensation should be graduated on the same scale as that which has or may obtain in the several Auditors' offices, and in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Land Office, &c.

In relation to a part of the regular force employed in this office, I beg leave to present the enclosed extract from my report made in obedience to a call from the Committees on Patents.

The draughtsman of this office is required to furnish drawings of the most difficult and complicated character. His talents and skill in his profession are of a very high order, and no one is more faithful and devoted to his duties. His compensation ought to be equal to that paid to the draughtsman in the Land Office.

The duties of the second clerk are multifarious, and require a general and comprehensive knowledge of the current business of the office. From his experience in the office (before its destruction by fire) and activity, his services are very valuable. He ought to receive the salary paid to clerks of the second class in other offices.

The duties assigned to the clerk of patents, who superintends the preparation and issue of patents as fully stated above, are at all times laborious and responsible in a high degree, and his salary ought to be equal to that paid for the higher branches of clerical duty in other offices.

The recording clerk is wholly employed on the records of the office, and should be paid as are other secondary clerks.

The machinist of the office has a laborious duty, and his duties are responsible and constantly increasing. He must be well versed in mechanics, and be able to apply, practically, his mechanical skill at all times and on any subject. If any increase in the same class of salaries should obtain, his compensation should be increased in an equal ratio.

The messenger of this office, in addition to his appropriate duties, has, from the want of force, been obliged to perform a large amount of miscellaneous duty, besides which he daily deposits in the Treasury the moneys received for fees. This amounts, in the course of a year, to a large sum, (from \$30,000 to \$40,000,) and is a very responsible duty.

HENRY L. ELLSWORTH,

Commissioner of Patents.

Extract from the report of the Commissioner of Patents.

"The examiners of the Patent Office, who are required to be acquainted with the whole history of inventions in this and other countries, with the philosophy of mechanics and the sciences connected therewith, with practical mechanics and manufactures, and the common law on the subject of patents, receive but \$1,500.

"It is a happy circumstance that both of the present examiners are versed in the French language, and possess, also, a minute acquaintance with the models and records of the office now destroyed.

"But it cannot be expected that we shall retain their services for the small compensation of \$1,500, when a higher salary can be commanded any moment elsewhere. I would therefore propose to fix their salary at \$2,000.

"The duties of chief clerk are laborious and responsible. In the absence of the Commissioner, he is by law made acting Commissioner. He receives all the moneys paid into the office, and is required to execute bonds for the faithful discharge of his trust. Can it, therefore, be expected that he will consent to remain for less than the chief clerk in the Auditor's Bureau of the Post Office Department, or the proposed salary of the chief clerk of Commissioner of Indian Affairs?"

C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, January 26, 1837.

SIR: Application having been made, in behalf of the Committee of Ways and Means, for a copy of the letter which I addressed to you on the 18th of February last, respecting the salaries of the clerks in this department, I now enclose it, together with a copy of the regulations assigning to the various clerks their respective duties. In regard to this letter, it is proper to remark, that it was written principally with a view to the equalization of the salaries of the clerks in this department who were engaged in similar duties, and not in reference to a general increase of salaries throughout the Executive Departments, which has since been recommended by the committee, and to effect which, a bill was reported to the House of Representatives in May last. I would not have it inferred, therefore, from the letter alluded to, that I think any further increase of compensation than was at that time proposed, not called for by the changes in the expenses of living in the District. In any new arrangement which the committee may contemplate, it is presumed that the apportionment will be made with due reference to the character of the duties to be performed, and the qualifications they require. It will be seen by the regulations, a copy of which accompanies this letter, that none of the clerks employed in this department are employed as mere copyists; but that they all have other and more important services assigned to them. The clerks of the diplomatic bureau, especially, are charged with duties in a high degree arduous, responsible, and confidential, which require for their proper discharge superior education and

talents, with the strictest integrity. Both justice and public policy demand that their compensation should be in proportion to these requirements; and I earnestly recommend that they should be placed upon a footing at least with the chief clerks of bureaus in the other departments, and with the principal clerks in the land office. From the character of the services performed by the other clerks, it is thought reasonable that the lowest salary should not be less than \$1,200; the allowance of which would appear to be justified by the scale observed in the adjustment, at the last session, of the salaries in the Land and Post Offices. With this view, the clerks of this department should be divided, in respect to compensation, into four grades; the second of which should be upon an equality with the chief clerks of bureaus, and the principal clerks of the Land Office; and that they should be arranged in the following manner:

One of the first grade.

Three of the second grade.

Seven of the third grade.

Two of the fourth grade.

The salary of the translator, which is now \$1,600, should also be increased.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

The Hon. CAVE JOHNSON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
February 18, 1836.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 5th instant, I have the honor to inform you that no additional clerks are wanted for the office of the Secretary of State, but that an increase of salary for some of those now employed is deemed necessary, as well to afford a reasonable compensation for their services, as to produce an equality of compensation among those who perform similar and equal duties.

The inadequateness of the salary of the chief clerk, considering the importance of the trust confided to him, and the qualifications necessary to its proper discharge, has been brought to the notice of former committees. I enclose, for your information, copies of communications on that subject from my immediate predecessor and myself. At the first session of the last Congress the Committee of Ways and Means inserted, in the appropriation bill, an additional compensation to the chief clerk, of \$500 per annum. This was withdrawn by the committee, under the belief, it is understood, that this mode of raising salaries was irregular, and that it would be proper to authorize the increased compensation by a special law. I beg leave now, respectfully, to recommend the increase then proposed by the committee.

The clerks employed in the diplomatic bureau are three, at salaries of \$1,600, \$1,500, and \$1,400, respectively. Their duties are arranged and distributed solely with a view to equalize their labors; those of one clerk not being considered as more important and laborious than those of another. The salaries should, therefore, be equal. And as the highest is but a

moderate compensation for the service, I submit that two salaries of \$1,600 be substituted for the one at \$1,500, and one at \$1,400.

The clerks employed in the consular bureau, are three; two of whom receive salaries of \$1,400, and one a salary of \$1,000. The same remarks are applicable to those, in regard to their duties, as to those in the diplomatic bureau; and for the same reasons I submit, as just and equitable, that they all be placed at equal salaries, a salary of \$1,400 being deemed but a reasonable compensation for the services performed.

The home bureau consists of four clerks; two at \$1,400, one at \$900, and one at \$800. These two last mentioned salaries are insufficient, either as a support for those employed, or as a compensation for their services. I have, on a former occasion, recommended that they be increased to \$1,000 each; and I beg leave, now, to renew the recommendation. A copy of my former letter is enclosed.

No change is proposed in the salary of clerk employed as keeper of the archives, which is \$1,400.

The clerk employed as translator and librarian receives a compensation of \$1,600, of which \$600 are authorized only by the annual appropriation acts. It is submitted that the salary of the translating clerk be increased, by law, to \$1,600.

The clerk employed as disbursing agent receives a compensation of \$1,450, of which \$300 are authorized only by the annual appropriation acts. It is submitted that the salary be increased to \$1,450, by general law. Copies of the letters from the department, upon which the additional allowances to the two last mentioned clerks were made, are enclosed.

As inquiries are now on foot, with reference to a change in the Patent Office, the clerkships in that office are not brought into view in this communication.

If the additions which I have deemed it my duty to submit to you be approved, the clerkships in the office of the Secretary of State, (not including the Patent Office,) will be as follows:

Chief clerk, employed under the act of July 27, 1789, \$2,500.

Four clerks, at \$1,600 each.

Six clerks, at \$1,400 each.

One clerk, at \$1,450.

Two clerks, at \$1,000.

The number being the same as now authorized by law.

I transmit, for the more particular information of the committee, a copy of the arrangement of the business assigned to the several clerks in the department.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

The Hon. CAVE JOHNSON,

Committee of Ways and Means.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

April 17, 1838.

SIR: In obedience to the resolution of the Senate of the 9th ultimo, respecting the compensation of the clerks employed in the several depart-

ments, I have the honor to submit the following report in relation to those of the Treasury Department:

The first and second clauses of the resolution require that it should be stated "the number of clerks employed in their respective departments, and in the several bureaus connected with or attached thereto, designating the number of clerks in each department and bureau;" "the various rates of compensation paid to clerks, and the number of clerks in each department and bureau, at each given rate of compensation."

The tabular statement annexed (A) shows the number of clerks employed in this department, and its several bureaus.

The third and fourth clauses require "the classification of the clerks, as nearly as they may be able, in reference to the character of the labor to be performed, the care and responsibility imposed, the qualifications required, and the relative value to the public of the services of each class as compared with the others; and especially whether, as the clerks are now paid, there be inequalities of compensation among clerks performing the same class of duties, and whether there be now classes of clerks receiving different rates of compensation where the duties performed are substantially equal in all the considerations which should govern the compensation;" "such changes and improvements in the classification of the clerks in the respective departments and bureaus in reference to compensation, as justice to the clerks and the interests of the public service may seem to them to require."

In reply to this, I have the honor to refer to the reports which accompany this, (marked B 1 to B 12,) received from the heads of the several offices of this department.

In relation to the duties of the clerks employed in my own immediate office, I have to state, under these last mentioned clauses of the resolution, that it is considered that the responsibilities imposed on the clerks having charge of the following duties, are in the following order:

1st. The clerk who issues and registers the warrants for payments under the appropriations for civil, diplomatic, and miscellaneous expenditures, and keeps accounts of all such appropriations, and also keeps an account of the bonds taken and liquidated at each custom-house.

2d. The clerk who attends to matters relating to internal improvement, and to such subjects as are submitted by the Solicitor of the Treasury and district attorneys, not immediately connected with the branches of business assigned to others, and all claims under like circumstances; acts as translator of foreign languages; attends to the accounts of banks, collectors, and receivers, with the Treasurer of the United States; prepares statements on which warrants are issued for bringing money into the Treasury, and sees to the correspondence with the mint and its branches.

3d. The clerk who attends to the examinations and correspondence under the deposit act of 23d June, 1836; to remittances to, and correspondence with, the bankers of the United States abroad; audits and pays the accounts consequent on the burning of the southeast Executive building; acts as agent in paying the salaries and contingent expenses of the Secretary's office; contingent expenses of the southeast Executive building; salaries of superintendent and watchmen, and is general disbursing agent of the Treasury Department. These respective duties place them in a position substantially equal, and the high responsibility of their duties would seem to require that they should be compensated according to the highest grade established for subordinate clerks, (\$1,800.)

There are five clerks employed in the office on the following duties :

1st. The clerk who issues and registers the warrants for payments under the appropriations for the naval service ; keeps the appropriation accounts of the navy, and keeps an account of the accruing duties.

2d. The clerk who attends to the correspondence connected with the General and other land offices, and to all business arising under the laws relating to the public lands ; to all business connected with the building, repair, and supply of revenue cutters, and their employment ; to the examination of charges and complaints of official misconduct against registers and receivers of public money, and the officers of the revenue cutters, and to the correspondence appertaining thereto ; also, to the business arising under the acts for the relief of sick and disabled seamen employed in the merchant service, and the building and repair of public hospitals designed for their benefit.

3d. The clerk who examines questions arising under the revenue laws, and attends to the correspondence appertaining to such questions ; keeps an account of money received and expended by collectors of the customs ; prepares the correspondence in relation to the employment of revenue boats ; examines appeals from appraisements under the 18th section of the act of March 1, 1823, and applications to complete drawback entries under the act of March 3, 1815. He attends, also, to the payment of fishing bounties ; to all charges and complaints against officers of the customs ; to the correspondence connected therewith ; to that arising under miscellaneous subjects assigned to him, and to the business of the coast survey, and fabrication of weights and measures.

4th. The clerk who attends to the statements of the condition of the State banks, required by the resolve of the House of Representatives of 1832, and to the correspondence with the officers of the several States and corporations, required to obtain the facts necessary for those statements ; and in relation to the deposits with the States, prepares the instructions to the Treasurer for transfers, and keeps the transfer book ; attends to such statistical and financial investigations as may be required by the Secretary from time to time.

5th. The clerk who examines applications for the relief of insolvent debtors of the United States, under the acts of the 2d March, 1831, and 14th July, 1832 ; and prepares the cases when reported by the commissioners of insolvency for the Secretary's decision ; and, generally, attends to all matters arising under those acts.

Those clerks it is recommended should receive the next grade of compensation, \$1,600.

There are two clerks whose duties are as follows :

1st. The clerk who issues and registers the revolutionary bounty land scrip, under the acts of the 30th May, 1830, 13th July, 1832, and 2d March, 1833 ; attends to all business connected with that branch of the public service ; has charge of the correspondence and business arising from the treaties with the Chickasaw nation of Indians, and assists in recording ; registers all communications received at and sent from the department.

2d. The clerk who issues and registers the warrants for payments under the appropriations for the military service, and keeps accounts of all such appropriations ; also, of all custom-house bonds in suit, and debentures issued and paid ; assists in copying, and attends to such miscellaneous subjects as may be referred to him by the Secretary or chief clerk.

It is recommended that their compensation should be fixed at the next grade, \$1,400.

There are five clerks employed in the office on the following duties, viz :

1st. The clerk who attends to remission of fines, penalties, and forfeitures ; examines applications for entries under the 10th section of the act of the 1st of March, 1823 ; to matters concerning the light-house establishment, and examines charges or complaints of official misconduct against persons connected with that establishment ; assists in miscellaneous correspondence, and in copying and recording.

2d. The clerk who keeps the statement book, showing the condition of the several deposit banks, and draws out such extracts and reports as are from time to time required upon that subject ; also assists in copying.

3d. The clerk who attends to the copying and recording, required for the business under the acts for the relief of certain insolvent debtors of the United States ; and assists in copying and recording generally.

4th. The clerk who has charge of letters of application and recommendation for office, complaints and resignations ; issues commissions, warrants, and letters of appointment ; assists in copying and recording, and has the general charge of the letters and records.

5th. The clerk who assist in the issuing and recording of land scrip, and in copying and recording generally.

Their compensation it is recommended should be established at the last grade, \$1,200.

With respect to the compensation of those in the several offices of the department, I would suggest and respectfully recommend that each of the chief clerks should receive a salary of \$2,000 per annum ; the first grade of subordinate clerks therein, salaries of \$1,600 each ; the second grade, \$1,400 each ; the third grade, \$1,200 each ; and the lowest grade, in such of the offices as require it, \$1,000 each.

This report is made after a conference with the heads of the other Executive Departments, in compliance with the directions contained in the resolution ; and in order that a full view may be given, as to several rates of compensation for the clerks of the department, founded on the reports of the heads of the several offices thereof, according to the grades as established above. I would, therefore, recommend the following, viz :

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

1 chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,200
3 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,800
5 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
5 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

FIRST COMPTROLLER.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
7 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
4 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
3 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

SECOND COMPTROLLER.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
4 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
1 clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

FIRST AUDITOR.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
6 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
4 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

SECOND AUDITOR.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
6 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
6 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

THIRD AUDITOR.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
9 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
12 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

FOURTH AUDITOR.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
5 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
6 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

FIFTH AUDITOR.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

AUDITOR POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
4 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
12 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
32 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
5 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

REGISTER.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
4 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
3 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
10 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

TREASURER.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
1 clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

SOLICITOR.

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
1 clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
1 clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
1 clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
1 clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

COMMISSIONER GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

24 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
1 draughtsman	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
24 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
24 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
11 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000

Respectfully submitted,

LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,

President of the Senate.

A.

Present compensation and number of clerks in the Treasury Department.

	CHIEF CLERKS.			OTHER CLERKS.									
	\$2,000.	\$1,800.	\$1,700.	\$1,600.	\$1,500.	\$1,400.	\$1,300.	\$1,200.	\$1,150.	\$1,100.	\$1,000.	\$800.	\$600.
Secretary -	1	-	-	3	-	5	-	-	2	-	5	-	-
First Comptroller -	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	5	-	5	-	-
Second Comptroller -	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	2	2	-
First Auditor -	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	6	1	-
Second Auditor -	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	5	1	-
Third Auditor -	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	10	-	7	-	-
Fourth Auditor -	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	5	-	6	-	-
Fifth Auditor -	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Auditor Post Office Department -	1	-	-	4	-	11	-	23	-	-	9	-	4
Treasurer -	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	5	1	-	3	-	-
Register -	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	10	3	-
Solicitor -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Commissioner Gen. Land Office -	-	3	-	-	2*	4	16	20+	-	5	35	-	-

* Including one draughtsman.

† Including one assistant draughtsman.

B1.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
First Comptroller's Office, March 14, 1838.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 9th instant, which has been referred to me, I have the honor to report that there are, at this time, fifteen clerks employed in the office of the First Comptroller of the Treasury, whose annual compensation has been fixed, by law, according to the following graduation: One, the principal clerk, at \$1,700; four clerks at \$1,400; five at \$1,150; and five at \$1,000.

In order to insure to them a just appreciation of the services required, and the qualifications requisite to their faithful performance, it will be sufficient to state, that among other and multifarious duties connected with the trust committed to the Comptroller, he has the final settlement and control over all accounts relative to the customs, public lands, foreign indemnities and missions, marine hospitals, light-houses, judiciary, and a variety of others of a miscellaneous nature; the checking of all Treasury warrants drawn under the respective appropriations of the public moneys to be applied to civil and miscellaneous objects of expenditure, for the support of the army and navy, and the annuities to the Indians; and, besides these, which are manifestly intricate, and involve a high degree of responsibility, he has in charge an extensive correspondence, of growing magnitude, in relation as well to complicated matters of account as to the no less complex and delicate questions arising under the treaties with foreign nations, and the laws of impost and tonnage.

From this cursory and necessarily incomplete designation of the duties of this office, it will be manifest that they require the employment of clerks possessing more than an ordinary share of intelligence, of strict fidelity, and habits for business.

It is utterly impracticable that the Comptroller should be able to give to the diversity of matters confided to his management and control more than a general supervision; and they have therefore been assigned to, or distributed among, the several clerks, on whose seasonable promptitude, experience, and accuracy, in the searching investigation they require, report of facts and precedents applicable to them and their occasional revision, reliance, to a very considerable extent, must be placed; and the aid or services of each one in his appropriate sphere of duty being indispensable, the measure of his usefulness, in a comparative point of view, it would be difficult to decide in fairness and justice to all.

The evident expediency, however, of providing salaries to be graduated by the relative worth and responsibility of the various duties performed by them, is not, in my opinion, urged by stronger considerations than that the graduation should be regulated with some regard to the comforts and necessities of those who, by such a rule in the apportionment of salaries, would necessarily fall in the lower classification. It would be, no doubt, highly conducive to the public security and convenience, and no more than strictly just to the clerks themselves, if such grades of compensation should be established as will insure a continuance of the services of those whose experience and qualifications form a barrier against impositions that may be attempted to be practised on the Government, and induce others of equal competency to supply their places, if, by death, resignation, or otherwise, they should become vacated.

To the general industry and ability of the clerks attached to this office, I would add, as no unimportant reason why I think their compensation should be reasonably augmented, that many of them have spent their youth and wasted their best energies in zealous devotion to the public service. It is but equitable that their compensation should be made commensurate with the labor and high character of the services they are expected to perform. Connected with these, there are other considerations, some of which I forbear to suggest, as they have been so repeatedly urged; which press their claims upon the attention of Congress. Debarred from any engagement in other pursuits, and for which they are peculiarly unfitted by the habits acquired from the nature of their employment, under the existing rates of compensation, while it is inadequate to the decent maintenance of themselves and families, there appears to be but too much reason to apprehend that, after years of useful and honorable toil for the public good, the grave has closed over some of them and their destitute families have been left to seek, from the reluctant hand of charity, that which, it is confidently hoped, the equity of Congress, on being better advised of their circumstances and merits, will enable the others more fortunate to provide.

Impressed with the conviction that the existing rates of compensation are insufficient, that they should be augmented, and that, by it, the public interest would be judiciously promoted, I would respectfully propose that the following classification of salaries, to be distributed as the Comptroller may deem to be just and proper, be recommended to Congress for the clerks employed in this office, viz:

First class, the principal clerk, at \$2,200

Second class, seven clerks, each at - - - -	\$1,800
Third class, four clerks, each at - - - -	1,600
Fourth class, three clerks, each at - - - -	1,400

Although not embraced in the resolution referred to me, their worth and fidelity, and the high prices which even the necessities of life now command, induce me to commend to your favorable consideration, also, the messenger and assistant messengers belonging to my office. They are intrusted with the carrying of important papers, and perform, generally, services of no inconsiderable value. I therefore indulge the hope, that you will perceive the propriety of asking for them the increase of compensation, as proposed, viz :

First, to the messenger - - - -	\$1,000
Second, to the 1st assistant messenger - - - -	800
Third, to the 2d assistant messenger - - - -	700

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

J. N. BARKER,

Comptroller.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

B 2.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Second Comptroller's Office, March 14, 1838.

SIR: The resolutions of the Senate of the 9th instant, relative to the clerks employed in the public offices, having been referred to me for "report as to the clerks in this office," I state in reply to the first and second inquiries contained in the first resolution, that the number of clerks employed in this office is ten : of whom one, the chief clerk, receives seventeen hundred dollars per annum ; two receive each fourteen hundred dollars per annum ; three receive each eleven hundred and fifty dollars per annum ; two receive each one thousand dollars per annum, and two receive each eight hundred dollars per annum. These sums do not include the increased compensation allowed by the 3d section of the act of March 3, 1837.

In reply to the third inquiry, I observe that I am not aware that the "character of the labor to be performed, the care and responsibility imposed, or the qualifications required," would justify a classification of the clerks in this office. The nature of the duties to be performed by all the clerks, with the exception of the book-keeper, is nearly similar. Of the ten clerks employed in this office, nine are engaged with the revision and settlement of accounts, viz : one is charged with the revision of the recruiting accounts of the army, of the ordnance accounts, medical accounts, and all the individual accounts for militia services when settled at the seat of Government, and, also, with the registry and custody of all the contracts made by virtue of any law of the United States, requiring the advance of money, or in any manner connected with the settlement of public accounts, all of which contracts are, by the 6th section of the act of July 16, 1798, to be deposited in this office. Two clerks are employed in the revision and settlement of the accounts arising in the Quartermaster's Department and Subsistence Department of

the army, embracing all the expenditures for quarters, fuel, subsistence, and transportation of the army, and all military stores and munitions of war. The expenditure for these purposes being large, and many of the claims, especially those arising on account of the militia and volunteers in the service of the United States being irregular, great vigilance is indispensable on the part of the clerks to whom the examination of these claims is intrusted, and their constant and unremitted attention barely enables them to dispose of these accounts so as to prevent accumulation. One clerk is employed in the examination of all the accounts for the expenditure of the appropriations for the Indian service, comprising the disbursements for defraying the expenses of Indian treaties, removal and subsistence of Indians, annuities, schools, and every other expenditure in the Indian service. To the same clerk is assigned the examination and revision of all the accounts arising in the purchasing department, and, also, for the pay of the army, including volunteers and militia, in the service of the United States, when these troops have been paid by a paymaster.

One clerk is employed in the revision and settlement of all the accounts connected with internal improvements, embracing expenditures for fortifications, roads and canals, clearing out rivers, improvement of harbors, for surveys, and for the military academy.

Two clerks are employed in the revision and settlement of all the accounts arising in the naval service, including the expenditures at navy yards, for navy pensioners, by naval store-keepers, pursers, and navy agents. All the vouchers for the expenditure of the annual appropriations for the navy pass through the hands of these two clerks, and upon their vigilance and fidelity must the head of the office rely when he admits and certifies the very heavy and important accounts intrusted to their examination.

Two clerks are employed in the revision and settlement of the pension accounts for invalid, revolutionary, and other pensioners. In consequence of several developments of fraud, it has been deemed necessary to make a critical examination of the written declaration of identity, and all the papers filed as a voucher for each payment to every pensioner in the United States. This examination, together with the keeping of check lists, so as to detect double or over payments, affords full employment to the two gentlemen engaged on this duty, and it is only by close and diligent attention that they are enabled to prevent an accumulation of the unsettled files.

Having thus particularly explained the duties devolving upon each of the clerks in this office, with the exception of the book-keeper, I do not perceive any good reason arising from the nature of their employment, the responsibility imposed, or the qualifications required, for dividing them into classes. I feel justified in saying that, to accomplish the objects for which the Comptroller's office was established, it is indispensable that all the clerks be intelligent, faithful, critical in examination, and in integrity beyond even suspicion. It is impossible for the head of the office to enter into minute examinations of each account. Reliance must be placed on the clerk, and no claimant should ever have the slightest cause to expect that, by any art or appliance in any quarter, he could obtain undue favor. A faithful discharge of the duty of an accounting officer, especially of the last resort, requires no inconsiderable firmness. The pressure is constant and unceasing from claimants not only impelled by interest to unyielding perseverance, but, like all interested parties, liable to be blinded by their interest to the true construction of the laws and regulations applicable to the case. The

settlement of principles and the construction of the laws devolve exclusively upon the head of the office; but the application to individual cases must usually be made by the clerk, and this application frequently requires the exercise of professional knowledge. Cases of freight, of charter party, of average, occur frequently: two of the latter within a few days; as, also, of the construction of contracts and the construction of executive regulations, upon all which the decisions of this office are conclusive, except when controlled by judicial decisions. To carry out and apply these decisions, requires in a clerk a much higher degree of intelligence than is required merely to state a merchant's account, or perform the labor of a copyist.

As the preceding observations do not apply particularly to the book-keeper, it is proper that I should state that in this office separate accounts are opened with each appropriation made by Congress for the army, navy, internal improvement, and Indian expenditure, amounting in number to between six and seven hundred. The money being drawn from time to time, as the exigency of the public service requires, is regularly charged to the appropriation on which it is drawn, whereby we are enabled to check over drafts, and is also charged to the individual receiving it, who is held accountable to this office for its faithful expenditure. From a dissection monthly, the book-keeper is enabled to show on his ledger the state of each appropriation, as proven by the records of this office, and a comparison with those of the departments from whence the requisitions issue, and the various books of the other offices. At all times his books exhibit the state of the appropriations, and afford the means, in a condensed form, of ascertaining their balances, and are much resorted to by other offices for that purpose. At the close of the year, after a thorough comparison, an annual statement is prepared by him, and is furnished Congress through the Secretaries of War and Navy, in pursuance of the act of May 1, 1820, which shows the amount appropriated, refunded, expended, and the balances of each appropriation remaining unexpended.

The force in this office not being sufficient to enable me to assign the books for the War and Navy Departments to different individuals, as I should otherwise do, the whole duty of keeping both sets of books has necessarily devolved on one person. The duty of book-keeper requires constant attention and exactness, and the place is of as high responsibility as any in the office, and, from the nature of its duties, is entitled to as much compensation.

From the foregoing statements and observations, it will be apparent that, in my opinion, as the clerks are now paid, there are great inequalities of compensation among clerks in this office performing the same class of duties, and that there are now classes of clerks receiving different rates of compensation where the duties performed are substantially equal in all considerations which should govern the compensation.

4. In reply to the fourth particular inquiry in the resolution of the Senate, I beg leave to subjoin an extract from a report which I had the honor of making to you on this subject on the 2d of January, 1837, and to add that my opinion remains unchanged. It will be apparent that, in making that classification, I had reference to the graduation of salaries in the Post Office Department, which, having been recently established, were taken as the standard. The classification now called for by the resolutions of the Senate is predicated upon a different standing, viz: "character of the labor to be performed, care and responsibility imposed, and qualifications required."

The report of the 2d January, 1837, above referred to, concludes as follows:

"Under these impressions, I have been favorably disposed towards the request of the clerks in this office to be placed on an equal footing, as it regards salary, with the clerks of the Post Office Department, believing that the duties of the former are as important as those of the latter, and require as high degree of intelligence and as close application. I am of opinion that, in order to effect this equality, having regard to the nature and importance of the services required, the salaries of the clerks in this office should be graduated as follows:

One chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Four clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Two clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
One clerk, at	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

I would also add, that in my judgment, the messenger of this office ought to receive the same compensation for his services as is allowed to the messenger in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department."

Since the date of the report from which this extract is made, two clerkships of the lower grade in point of salary have been transferred to this office from that of the Fourth Auditor. If these clerkships had belonged to this office at the time of making that report, they would have been included in the class for which an annual compensation of twelve hundred dollars was recommended. From my knowledge of the expense of supporting a family in this city, I should do violence to my own judgment were I to designate a lower salary than twelve hundred dollars for any clerk in this office.

I would not have it understood that, by any scale of graduation, ought the proper distinction between the compensation of the chief and other clerks to be disregarded.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ALBION K. PARRIS,
Comptroller.

The Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

B 3.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
First Auditor's Office, March 13, 1838.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the Senate, adopted on the 9th instant, calling on the heads of the Executive Departments for a report relative to the compensation of the clerks employed in the said departments, including the respective offices and bureaus attached thereto, a copy of which you have referred to me for a report from this office, I beg leave to submit the following:

In the first place I deem it necessary, to a proper understanding of the subject, to present a brief statement of the business transacted in this office. The office of the First Auditor is that which belongs to the Treasury Department proper; and all matters of account connected with the Treasury that have not, under the general arrangement adopted by the act of the 3d

of March, 1817, entitled "An act to provide for the prompt settlement of public accounts," or by some special legislation, been transferred to other offices, belong to this.

The general account of the Treasurer, of all moneys received by him and paid on warrants, is settled quarterly. This account shows the particulars of the sources from which the moneys are received, and on what account paid away. The accounts of all the collectors of the customs are settled quarterly. These accounts have to be examined in detail, and fair abstracts and statements made, and all differences with the account current of the collectors particularly noted and explained. These embrace, among other things, all the disbursements on account of the revenue cutter and revenue boat service, and of the payment of debentures on merchandise exported, bounties, &c.

The expenditures for marine hospital purposes have also to be adjusted quarterly, and brought to the credit of the collectors. There is also a general account kept in the office of all custom-house bonds taken and paid, and in suit.

The emolument accounts of the collectors, surveyors, naval officers, and other officers of the customs are settled annually. These include fees received and expenses incurred, in detail. The account of salaries for all the civil officers of the Government, including judges, marshals, and district attorneys, are settled quarterly, and certificates of the amount due issued. The diplomatic corps is an exception, as their accounts are settled by the Fifth Auditor. The accounts of the marshals for all judicial expenditures, and the accounts of the legislative and contingent expenses of the Territories. The accounts of the treasurer of the mint and the several branches, quarterly. The contingent expenses of all the departments and offices of the Government are settled quarterly. The contingent expenses of the two Houses of Congress, including the pay and mileage of members, are also adjusted in this office. Also, the expenditures for light-houses, &c., after they have passed the examination of the Fifth Auditor, acting as commissioner of the revenue. The expenditures on the coast survey, and for the construction of weights and measures; the accounts *proper* of the Commissioner of the Public Buildings, and his accounts as agent of the President in the construction of the new Treasury building and Patent Office. The latter is settled monthly. The unsettled accounts remaining of collectors of the internal revenue and direct taxes, and of the outstanding stocks due by the Government. The accounts of commissioners appointed for the erection of custom-houses. Numerous certificates are also issued, on the award of the Third Auditor, for the payment of property lost or destroyed in the service of the United States; also for refunding money for lands erroneously sold; also for the payment of claims under the Spanish treaty, for property destroyed; also for refunding patent fees on the refusal of a patent or the withdrawal of applications. There are also various miscellaneous accounts, connected with banks, district attorneys, &c., to be settled.

In addition to the general routine of business there are more or less special cases, arising under special legislation every session of Congress, assigned to this office, many of which are of the most difficult character to adjust.

The late act authorizing the issue of Treasury notes has created a very important and responsible addition to the business of the office. An ac-

count has to be stated for each collector, quarterly, of the notes received in payment of revenue, in which a strict comparison of the notes transmitted with the abstracts has to be made, and all the interest and other calculations proved. The said Treasury notes are also offered in payment of various dues to the Government, in all of which it becomes necessary to state an account for their redemption, in each case.

From the foregoing statement it will be perceived that the most of the business done in this office is of a character to require the aid of clerks who understand accounts, and who have some general knowledge of the construction of law, and of business generally, except those who are employed as recording and copying clerks. There are thirteen clerks employed in this office; one chief clerk, and twelve others: ten of the latter may be considered as accounting clerks, and two as recording and copying clerks. I consider the proper adjustment of the custom-house accounts a very important and responsible branch of the duties of this office. The gentlemen now and heretofore engaged in this business receive, as a regular salary, but \$1,150 per annum. This I consider wholly inadequate to the duties they have to perform, both as regards the responsibility of the trust and the knowledge requisite to perform it with accuracy. It is on the fidelity and correctness of these men the Government has mainly to rely for the detection of frauds that may be attempted by the officers of the revenue; for it is almost impossible for the Auditor to know anything of them unless they are brought to his notice by those who examine the accounts in detail. I cannot, therefore, perceive why they should not have as high salaries as any other accounting clerks; but, in fact, the same observation will apply, with great force, to all intrusted with the examination of important accounts.

In my communication last year, in reply to the letter of the Hon. Cave Johnson, I attempted to assimilate the several grades of salary in this office, to those that had been allowed the previous year, to the clerks in the office of the Auditor of the Post Office Department. If I recollect right, the call had particular reference to that object. But as the present call of the Senate is more extended, and seems to look to a new arrangement or gradation of salaries, I must say that I cannot discover any very substantial reason for more than three grades in this office, to wit: the chief clerk, accounting and corresponding clerks, and recording and copying clerks; certainly not more than four at most.

Should this gradation be favorably received, I would then recommend the following salaries:

Chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Ten accounting clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
o recording and copying clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

But should there be four grades, I would recommend the following:

One chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
Six accounting clerks, so as to include the four on the customs,	-	-	-	-	-	
each	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Four accounting clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Two recording and copying clerks, each	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

These rates are made in view of the increase of compensation asked for,

and in accordance with my opinion of what is necessary and proper for the support of competent and honest men.

In conclusion, permit me to remark, that in proposing the above grades of salaries, it has been my wish to avoid recommending anything that might be deemed extravagant by the most economical persons, acquainted with the duties of the clerks, and the expenses of living at the seat of Government. I am, perhaps, below the estimate of some others, who have equal opportunities of judging, and whose opinions are entitled, at least, to as much consideration as mine. I have preferred this to presenting anything that might be thought unreasonable or extravagant. I have, therefore, to request that the heads of departments, when they come to compare opinions, and present their views in an answer to the resolution of the Senate, will make such recommendation as will place the clerks in this office on as good a footing as those in any other office, having like duties to perform.

I have omitted to say anything in regard to the salary of the messenger, but I presume that his salary will, as a matter of course, be increased in proportion to the others.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. MILLER.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

The following are the salaries now allowed in this office, exclusive of the per centage under the act of the last regular session of Congress :

One chief clerk	- - - - -	\$1,700
Two clerks, each	- - - - -	1,400
Six clerks, each	- - - - -	1,150
Three clerks, each	- - - - -	1,000
One clerk	- - - - -	800

B. 4.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Second Auditor's Office, March 14, 1838.

SIR: I have received through the Treasury Department a copy of the resolution of the Senate of the 9th instant, and, in compliance with your directions, have the honor to report :

That in this office there are fifteen clerks employed, as provided for by the act of Congress of the 20th April, 1818. Of these,

One (chief clerk)	- - - - -	\$1,700
Two clerks, each	- - - - -	1,400
Six clerks, each	- - - - -	1,150
Five clerks, each	- - - - -	1,000
One clerk	- - - - -	800

Of the foregoing,

Four are engaged on separate and distinct duties.

Five are engaged performing the same class of duties, at salaries varying from \$1,400 to \$800 per annum.

Four are engaged on another class of duties, whose salaries vary from \$1,150 to \$1,000 per annum.

Two are engaged on another class of duties, at salaries of \$1,150 each.

The classification in this office has been made more in reference to its *wants*, than to the character of the labor to be performed. The various accounts presented here for settlement, require equal talents to adjust; and, therefore, no inference is to be drawn from the foregoing of the relative value to the public of one class compared with another, or of the services of the different clerks employed on the same duty.

The salaries being regulated by law, and varying so much in amount, it would be difficult, even were it desirable, to avoid inequalities of compensation among those who are engaged on precisely the same business. Talents, experience, and application ought to have due weight in regulating the rate of pay; on these qualifications, more than on the duty assigned to the clerk, should, in my opinion, his salary depend.

I have before had the honor of recommending, through you, an increase of the compensation of the clerks of this office, and would now respectfully add my wishes that such an augmentation may be asked for, as will enable me to give the following salaries, viz:

To the chief clerk	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
To six clerks, each	-	-	-	-	1,600
To six clerks, each	-	-	-	-	1,400
o two clerks, each	-	-	-	-	1,200

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. LEWIS.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

B 5.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Third Auditor's Office, March 13, 1838.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive the copy of the resolution of the Senate of the United States of the 9th instant, which you "referred to the Third Auditor, for a report as to the clerks in his office," and accordingly have the honor to state—

1st. 24 clerks are employed in the office of the Third Auditor.

2d. The various rates of compensation paid them, under the acts of the 20th April, 1818, and 18th January, 1837, are as follows:

1 chief clerk, per annum	-	-	-	-	\$1,700
6 clerks, each do.	-	-	-	-	1,400
10 clerks, each do.	-	-	-	-	1,150
7 clerks, each do.	-	-	-	-	1,000

3d. The classification of the clerks in reference to the character of labor to be performed, responsibility, &c.:

The chief clerk assists the Auditor in the general superintendence.

The six clerks, at salaries of \$1,400, are employed, two as principal and assistant book-keepers; four as principals in the branches of accounts appertaining to fortifications, military academy, and internal improvements; the Quartermaster's Department; Subsistence Department; claims under the act of the 18th January, 1837, and other claims of a miscellaneous character; and each with the correspondence in their respective branches.

Of the ten clerks, at salaries of \$1,150, two are employed in examining and stating accounts appertaining to the Quartermaster's Department; two on accounts relating to Subsistence Department; four on accounts for revolutionary, invalid, and other pensions; one on claims of soldiers, &c., for services anterior to July 1, 1815, and half-pay pensions to widows and orphans; one recording requisitions issued by the Secretary of War, chargeable on the books of the Third Auditor; the correspondence with members of Congress, and reports made to committees of Congress, &c.

The seven clerks, at salaries of \$1,000, are employed, three in the examination and stating of accounts relating to the Quartermaster's Department; one assistant in the Subsistence Department; one recording letters, and copying documents, &c.; one examining and stating accounts for revolutionary and other pensions; one registering claims and awards under the act of the 18th January, 1837, and the correspondence in relation thereto.

As regards "the responsibility imposed, the qualification required, and the relative value to the public of the services of each class, as compared with the others, and whether there be inequalities of compensation among the clerks performing the same class of duties," &c., I have the honor to state, that equal responsibility is imposed on each class, the difference in qualification mostly arising out of difference in experience from long service, and the circumstance of the classification under the act of the 20th April, 1818, restricting the higher grade of compensation to a less number than are, from long service and experience, entitled to promotion, which can only be attained as vacancies occur.

In regard to improvements in the classification of the clerks in this office, in reference to compensation, I submit the following:

One chief clerk, at	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000
One principal book-keeper, at	-	-	-	-	-	1,700
Eight clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	-	1,600
Twelve clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Two clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

And take leave to add that if, in any department of the Government, a higher rate of classification or compensation is recommended, the clerks in this office, of every grade, are, from their qualifications, application to business, and the character of the services required of them, entitled to be placed on equality therewith.

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

PETER HAGNER,

Auditor.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

B 6.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Fourth Auditor's Office, March 14, 1838.

SIR: Upon the resolution of the Senate of the 9th instant, concerning the clerks employed in the various departments, I have the honor to report, for this office, as follows:

There are thirteen clerks in the Fourth Auditor's Office, exclusive of the chief clerk; two of whom receive fourteen hundred dollars per annum, each; five, eleven hundred and fifty dollars per annum, each; and six, one thousand dollars per annum, each; their salaries being fixed by the acts of 1818 and 1827. One of the last mentioned is only temporary, and does not receive the per centum allowed by the act of the 3d March, 1837.

Of the thirteen clerks, one is the book-keeper, two are engaged in the settlement of navy pension accounts; four, in the settlement of the accounts of pursers; one, of all the accounts of the marine corps; two, of the accounts of navy agents; one settles miscellaneous accounts and writes letters, and two are employed in recording and copying.

The services of the book-keeper, of those who superintend the settlement of the pursers', marine, pension, and navy agents' accounts, five in number, I regard as of equal, or of nearly equal value to the public, and can suggest nothing better or fairer, than that they should receive the highest grade of pay allowed, under the salary of the chief clerk, should there be different grades; and, in my opinion, three grades would be necessary, in order to equalize the compensation received in this office, or to come as near equalizing it as may be conveniently practicable; which cannot be done, as the salaries are at present arranged.

Six others, engaged in settling pursers' and other accounts, should receive the second grade, and two copying and recording clerks, the third grade.

This classification would remove the inequalities now existing in the compensation, or at least diminish them, very sensibly, and take away all just cause of complaint.

I would propose for salaries, two thousand dollars per annum for the chief clerk, seventeen hundred dollars each for the first grade, fifteen hundred dollars each for the second, and twelve hundred and fifty dollars for the third. I have heretofore, in my reports, placed these salaries something lower; but, considering the increased and increasing expensiveness of a residence at Washington, and that, if there is any act passed soon, concerning them, it will probably be the last for a long time, I do not think they are placed too high; and if the salaries of any clerks should be fixed higher, the duties performed in this office are, in my opinion, of importance enough to justify the giving of the highest to those who perform them, if performed with correctness and fidelity.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. PICKETT,

Auditor.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 12, 1838.

SIR: In compliance with the resolutions of the Senate, of the 9th instant, a copy of which you referred to me, I have the honor to state:

1st. That there are seven clerks employed in this office.

2d. That the rates of compensation paid to them are as follows, viz:

One chief clerk, at a salary of	\$1,700
Two clerks, each at a salary of	1,400
And four clerks, each at a salary of	1,150

With an addition thereto of ten per cent, per act of Congress, of 3d March, 1837, from 1st January, 1837, to the end of the next session.

3d. That the chief clerk and three other clerks are engaged in the settlement of the accounts of the diplomatic and other agents of the United States in foreign countries, and in all other description of accounts appertaining to the Department of State; in those appertaining to the Patent Office; and in the settlement of the contingent accounts of the Post Office Department; also in adjusting the claims of our citizens, under the late conventions with Naples, France, and Spain. One other clerk is engaged in recording the reports made on the settlement of all the above description of accounts, and in recording the letters written by the office to the various individuals in relation to the settlement of their accounts.

Two other clerks are engaged on light-house duties; one of them in examining and recording the expenditure of moneys by the several superintendents; the other in copying letters from the office and recording them, upon the business of this branch generally.

These two are altogether inadequate to the proper discharge of this large and increasing branch of the public business, and two more are absolutely necessary, at salaries equal to the lowest grade, viz: \$1,150 each.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. PLEASANTON.

The Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

B 8.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE OF THE TREASURY,

For the Post Office Department.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the statements, relative to the clerks of this office, which seem to be requisite for the information of the honorable heads of departments, as indicated by the resolutions adopted by the Senate on the 9th instant. I hope the suggestions contained in the latter statement may meet your approbation.

I remain, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

C. K. GARDNER,

Auditor.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE TREASURY,
For the Post Office Department.

STATEMENT of the number of clerks employed in this office, designating, 1st, the number of clerks in each bureau of this office; 2d, the various rates of compensation now paid to said clerks.

	Salary.
1 chief clerk, at the salary of - - - - -	\$2,000

COLLECTING CLERKS:

[Now under the direction of the chief clerk, in addition to his general duties.]

2 corresponding clerks - - - - -	1,400
1 corresponding clerk - - - - -	1,200
3 who state accounts of postmasters - - - - -	1,000

PAY CLERKS.

1 principal clerk - - - - -	1,600
6 corresponding clerks - - - - -	1,400
1 to state accounts of contractors - - - - -	1,200
1 copyist - - - - -	1,000

EXAMINERS OF POSTMASTERS' ACCOUNTS.

1 principal clerk - - - - -	1,600
1 assistant and error clerk - - - - -	1,200
1 re-examiner - - - - -	1,200
1 examiner - - - - -	1,400
12 examiners - - - - -	1,200
1 examiner - - - - -	1,000
3 examiners - - - - -	600
1 receiver and recorder - - - - -	1,000
1 assistant to error clerk - - - - -	1,200

REGISTERS AND BOOK-KEEPERS:

1 principal clerk - - - - -	1,600
1 register of warrants and drafts - - - - -	1,400
1 register of postmasters' accounts - - - - -	1,400
5 registers of postmasters' accounts - - - - -	1,200
1 register of incidental accounts - - - - -	1,000

MISCELLANEOUS:

[These are employed, at present, in adjusting the accounts with the Treasury, drawing up reports for the Postmaster General and for Congress, and other duties.]

1 principal clerk - - - - -	1,600
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	Salary.
1 clerk - - - - -	\$1,200
2 clerks - - - - -	1,000
1 clerk - - - - -	600
<hr/> 52 <hr/>	

RECAPITULATION.

1 chief clerk - - - - -	\$2,000
4 principal clerks, at \$1,600 - - - - -	6,400
11 clerks, at 1,400 - - - - -	15,400
23 clerks, at 1,200 - - - - -	27,600
9 clerks, at 1,000 - - - - -	9,000
<hr/> 48	60,400
4 clerks, at 600 - - - - -	2,400
<hr/> 52 <hr/>	62,800 <hr/>

Making an average, excluding the four temporary clerks, of \$1,258 33 per clerk.

The following is proposed as a *classification* of the clerks of this office, embracing the number of clerks provided for in the bill recently reported by the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and exhibiting the rates of compensation required (in the opinion of the Auditor) by the several classes of duties, "in reference to the character of the labor to be performed, the care and responsibility imposed, the qualifications required, as compared with the others" in said office: the graduation of salaries being derived from the bill unanimously reported by the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives of the last Congress. [No. 616, 24th Congress, 1st session.]

	Salary.
1 chief clerk, (should an assistant Auditor be authorized,) at the salary of - - - - -	\$2,100
[Should no assistant be authorized, it is obvious that the first grade of salary should be assigned to the chief clerk of an office, having more than fifty clerks.]	

COLLECTING CLERKS.

1 principal clerk, (for correspondence with the district attorneys and marshals,) - - - - -	1,800
3 corresponding clerks - - - - -	1,500
4 to state accounts, (the fourth for present postmasters' accounts) - - - - -	1,200
1 copyist - - - - -	900

PAY CLERKS.

1 principal clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,800
7 corresponding clerks	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
1 to state contractors' accounts	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
1 copyist	-	-	-	-	-	900

EXAMINERS.

1 principal clerk	-	-	-	-	-	1,800
1 assistant and error clerk	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
19 examiners	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
1 copyist	-	-	-	-	-	900

REGISTERS.

1 principal clerk	-	-	-	-	-	1,800
1 register of warrants and drafts	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
7 registers of postmasters' accounts	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

MISCELLANEOUS.

To prepare exhibits and reports for the Postmaster General and for Congress.

1 clerk	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
2 clerks	-	-	-	-	-	900

54

RECAPITULATION.

1 chief clerk	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,100
4 principal clerks, at \$1,800	-	-	-	-	-	7,200
12 clerks, at \$1,500	-	-	-	-	-	18,000
32 clerks, at \$1,200	-	-	-	-	-	38,400
5 clerks, at \$900	-	-	-	-	-	4,500
—	-	-	-	-	-	<hr/>
54	-	-	-	-	-	70,200

Making an average of \$1,300 to each.

Should a salary of the *first grade*, (according to the bill referred to,) to wit: \$2,400, be provided for the chief clerk, it is respectfully recommended that a salary of the *second grade*, to wit: 2,100, be assigned to the principal clerk of the "Examiners," who has, at this time, twenty-one clerks under his supervision.

It is respectfully suggested whether it would not be most expedient, instead of a permanent provision for the clerks of the lowest grade of salary, viz: five at \$900 per annum, that the sum of \$4,000 or \$5,000 should be appropriated annually for *additional clerks*, in order that such temporary clerks may be employed, as the exigencies of the office may require, with a limit of compensation, if thought necessary, to a per diem of \$2, or \$600 per annum.

Respectfully submitted.

C. K. GARDNER, Auditor.

MARCH 19, 1838.

B 9.

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES,
March 10, 1838.

SIR: In compliance with the resolution adopted in the Senate of the United States, on the 8th instant, relative to the salaries of clerks, and referred by you to this office, I have the honor to report:

1st. Number of clerks in the Treasurer's office, employed under several acts in relation to the business of the Treasury proper	5
Number employed under the act re-organizing the General Post Office Department	3
Number employed under the act authorizing the issue of Treasury notes	4
Total number	12

2d. Present rates of compensation allowed:

1 clerk, at \$1,700 per annum	\$1,700
2 clerks, at \$1,400 per annum	2,800
5 clerks, at \$1,200 per annum	6,000
1 clerk, at \$1,150 per annum	1,150
3 clerks, at \$1,000 per annum	3,000

Aggregate annual compensation \$14,650

In relation to the third division of the resolution, I must observe, that the operations of this office have been so varied by the derangement of our fiscal concerns, and by the measures adopted to relieve them, and our prospective operations are involved in so much uncertainty, while, at the same time, they seem likely to be very much extended, that I must beg leave to be understood as making the following classification of the "character of the labor to be performed, the care and responsibility imposed, the qualifications required, and the relative value to the public of the services of each class as compared with others," *strictly* in reference to the duties assigned to each individual under our present arrangement of them, viz:

3d. Classification of services:

1st class. Chief clerk	1
2d class. Book keepers and accountants, (in which, however, the clerk having charge of General Post Office accounts and the one having charge of the Treasury note issues are under a greater degree of <i>responsibility</i> than the others)	4
3d class. Clerks employed on miscellaneous duties, relative to warrants, drafts, registers, certificates, &c.	3
4th class. Other miscellaneous services, of less important character	3
5th class. Copying clerk	1
	12

A comparison of the above classification of services with the foregoing rates of compensation, will show that there are in this office "inequalities of compensation among clerks performing the same class of duties," and

that there are "now, classes of clerks receiving different rates of compensation, where the duties performed are substantially equal in all the considerations which should govern the compensation."

As the fourth division of the resolution refers to the *amount* of compensation to be affixed to each class, I must beg leave to decline making any suggestion on that point, in consideration of my particular situation.

Feeling and knowing as I do, that it will be in the first degree important to this office, under any circumstances or changes, to retain the qualifications and integrity which we have now in service under the contingent and limited authority of the Treasury note law, I most earnestly recommend that the clerks now employed under that law be placed on a more permanent footing.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. B. RANDOLPH,

Acting Treasurer United States.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

B 10.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Register's Office, March 14, 1838.

Sir : In compliance with your reference to this office of the resolutions of the Senate of the 9th instant, I submit the following report:

The clerical duties of this office are so many and so varied, that they necessarily involve different degrees of qualifications and responsibility, arising from the relative grades of business, which make it difficult to give to each clerk his appropriate compensation under any classification, however judicious. All that can be accomplished is, the nearest practicable approximation to the ends of justice.

The whole number of clerks may be divided into four classes, including the chief clerk.

The duties of the first class require the highest clerical qualifications, involving, as they do, a thorough knowledge of book-keeping, and some of the most intricate calculations connected with the various branches of commerce and navigation, revenue and drawback, receipts and expenditures of the Government, and much other important business. These duties devolve upon three of the clerks, exclusive of the chief clerk; all of whom are respectively at the head of the first and most responsible departments of the office.

The duties pertaining to the second class are so intimately connected with the first grade of business, as to importance and amount of labor, that they require, in an essential degree, most of the qualifications of the first class. There are three that belong appropriately to this division. The third class have important and onerous duties to perform, that place them in the grade of qualifications but little subordinate to the second class. Of this division there are nine. The fourth and last class being engaged in less responsible duties, do not require the same qualifications. It is, nevertheless, requisite that they be well versed in book-keeping and accounts. There are five constituting this class.

This classification, which is based upon relative qualifications and respon-

sibilities, and as the appropriate distribution of justice to all, will show that "as the clerks are now paid there are inequalities of compensation for performing the same class of duties;" and it will also show that there are "now classes of clerks receiving different rates of compensation where the duties performed are substantially equal in all the considerations which should govern the compensation."

I would recommend that the chief clerk's salary be 2,000 per annum; that the salary of the first class of clerks be \$1,700 per annum; that the salary of the second class of clerks be \$1,600 per annum; that the salary of the third class of clerks be \$1,400 per annum; and that the salary of the fourth class of clerks be \$1,200 per annum.

If the tariff of salaries that is contemplated should give to the clerks of any of the departments a higher grade of compensation than I have named in my recommendation above, I beg leave to ask, in justice to the clerks of this office, that they may be included in that advance, as none have more delicate trusts and more important duties to perform.

For the better understanding of the duties that devolve upon the clerks of this office, I respectfully submit the accompanying statement of the duties of each.

I am, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

T. L. SMITH.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Statement of the duties performed by the clerks in the office of the Register of the Treasury.

One whose special duty is to keep the books appertaining to the revenue arising from the sale of public lands, &c., containing the accounts of the several receivers, the entries in which are made on the quarterly settlements at the Treasury; to make a short entry of accounts admitted and certified by the First Comptroller; and to pay the contingent accounts of the Register's office. His other duties are of a more general character, appertaining to the calls from the departments, and Congress, and to correspondence.

One who superintends the branches of commerce and navigation, of revenue and drawback, and discharges various other duties in relation to these branches.

One who keeps the principal books of receipts and expenditures, in which are included all the personal accounts in relation to the Treasury and State Departments; all the general heads of appropriations made by Congress; all the warrants issued on, or in favor of the Treasury; makes out the estimates for Congress, on which are founded the acts of appropriations for the support of the Government, and of the military and naval establishments, which he also makes out; makes out and superintends the formation of various statements in relation to the receipts and expenditures of the United States.

One who keeps the ledgers of appropriations and expenditures for the War and Navy Departments; prepares quarterly lists of payments under their

respective heads, together with the tabular views of appropriations, payments, re-payments, and balances; makes out a balance sheet, which is an exhibit in aggregate of the quarterly operations under each and every head of appropriation for the services of said departments, together with the balances unapplied at the close of each quarter; and occasionally assists in preparing answers to calls for miscellaneous information.

One who keeps the tonnage accounts of the United States, and corresponds with the several collectors thereon; prepares the annual statement for Congress of the district tonnage of the United States, showing the several descriptions of tonnage belonging to each district at the close of the year.

One who keeps the import ledger, exhibiting the revenue arising on imports, and containing the accounts of the several collectors of customs, the entries in which are made on the quarterly settlements by the accounting officers of the Treasury.

One who keeps the returns of the American and foreign tonnage; prepares the general statements of tonnage entering and departing, which accompany the report on commerce and navigation; assists in preparing the general statement of duties on merchandise, tonnage, &c., for public accounts; and attends to other duties of a general nature connected with the accounts of the collectors of the customs.

One who receives and enters in the journal the accounts of moneys expended in the civil, miscellaneous, and diplomatic departments; balances the ledger of receipts and expenditures annually; keeps the ledger of appropriations and expenditures of the civil, miscellaneous, and diplomatic departments; prepares and superintends the printing of the public accounts relative to the War and Navy Departments.

One who keeps the impost book, merchandise, and tonnage, and duties thereon; all the receipts and expenditures of each collection district; also takes off the drawbacks, by which the net revenue on merchandise is ascertained.

One who has charge of the records in the fire proof of the Treasury Department; furnishing information from them, embracing the files of the accounts filed at the Treasury by the First and Fifth Auditors, and certified by the First Comptroller; keeps registers of them; and has charge of the books of the old Government.

One who keeps the books of imports in American and foreign vessels from foreign countries, of the articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of foreign countries; also the footings of the collectors' abstracts; and makes out the annual statements for Congress of importations in American and foreign vessels.

One who keeps the books of domestic produce exported in American and foreign vessels, and prepares the annual statements thereof for Congress.

One who keeps the books of foreign merchandise exported in American and foreign vessels; the closing accounts of direct tax; copies revenue accounts for suit; and performs various other services of a miscellaneous nature.

One who keeps the record of marine papers issued in all the ports of the United States; enters the copies of registers and enrolments issued, and the originals when surrendered; files the latter, and arranges copies of said registers and enrolments.

One who prepares for the Register's signature copies of reports by the First and Fifth Auditors, on which warrants are to be issued by the Secretary of the Treasury for civil, miscellaneous, diplomatic, and revolutionary claims; makes out for the First and Fifth Auditors' offices certificates of moneys advanced to, and of balances due from, individuals, upon which are founded the charges in the settlement of their accounts; and records and registers warrants drawn in favor of and on the Treasurer of the United States.

One who records and registers the warrants upon the requisitions of the Secretary of War and Navy.

One copying clerk; and prepares statements of a miscellaneous character; records drafts drawn on banks by the Treasurer of the United States; and registers Treasury notes.

One who assists in that branch of business which relates to the tonnage of the United States; transmits certificates and lists of crews to the several collectors; and has charge of the Congressional documents.

One who prepares various statements, and keeps the records in relation to unclaimed dividends and the marine hospital fund; keeps the account of the contingent fund and of payments made by order of the Library Committee of Congress; records the Treasurer's drafts on banks and receipts for patents.

One who keeps the books of internal revenue, and makes out transcripts of accounts for suit, of collectors and receivers of public money, who are out of office.

One who is copying clerk in the revenue branch, and assists in the various duties connected therewith.

B 11.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY, March 16, 1838.

SIR: I had the honor to receive the resolution of the Senate of the 9th inst., referred by you to this office.

1st. The number of clerks now employed here is three, together with a messenger.

2d. The compensation paid to the clerks is \$1,150 each, and the messenger \$500.

3d. The character of the labor performed, the care and responsibility imposed, the qualifications required, and the relative value of the services, are, in my opinion, the same with each of the clerks in this office. Its business both as to amount and responsibility is equally divided among them, as near as may be, and I am not aware of any necessity for making a discrimination.

4th. A change in the compensation of the clerks of this office is manifestly required, both in justice to them and for the interest of the public service. This has been heretofore stated, on more than one occasion, both by my predecessor and myself. In no office is more labor imposed, or more intelligence required for its faithful performance; yet the rate of compensation is greatly below that allowed to similar services in other offices.

I think, on principles of equality, the clerks in this office should receive \$1,500 a year.

In adding such suggestions and recommendations on this subject as seem to be called for, I beg to refer to my letter to you of the 1st December, 1837, and to repeat that "if the business now devolved on this office is to be done, it is necessary that one additional permanent clerk, and one temporary clerk, should be added." The reasons for this addition are so fully stated in that letter, as to make it unnecessary here to repeat them, but I respectfully ask your reference to them.

Very respectfully, yours,

H. D. GILPIN,

Solicitor of the Treasury.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY,

December 1, 1837.

SIR: I take the liberty of asking you to consider in your estimates to Congress, the necessity of giving additional aid to perform the duties assigned to this office. The clerks now employed are the same in number as when it was first established, seven years ago, and when it was intended to have little more than the business previously devolved on the agent of the Treasury. In January last, the *ordinary* and *necessary* official business had increased so much as to oblige my predecessor to employ the messenger as a recording clerk: and in a report submitted to Congress, (reports of committees, 1836—1837, vol. 1, doc. No. 161, p. 13,) he pointed out the necessity which then existed for additional aid. In fact the creation of a legal office in the Treasury Department has led to an increase of business, not foreseen, and certainly not directly contemplated, by the act which constituted it. A variety of subjects connected, not only with the suits, and special objects for which it was created, but with all sorts of contracts made by, and with, various officers in the different departments, has been thrown upon it, and require constant examination and long correspondence. It is perfectly evident that this increase of business cannot be properly attended to with the same number of clerks as were in the office seven years ago.

But in addition to this increase of the *ordinary* business, several entirely new duties have been assigned to it.

1st. By the act of 3d March, 1837, (ch. 25,) the compromise and final settlement of the claims of the United States with forty-seven insolvent banks, running back in some instances twenty years, has been devolved on it. 2d. By the instructions from the Treasury of the 15th May, the extension of custom-house bonds was committed to the district attorneys. The report of these cases alone extend to more than eight thousand entries, and will require seven folio volumes, in addition to the usual custom-house business. 3d. The act of 11th October last, imposes extensive correspondence, and new duties, in regard to the security, bonds, &c., of the late deposit banks. For all these no aid has been allowed, and I have not chosen to employ any without previous authority. It has consequently been impossible to enter upon the adjustment of the old bank claims; and the records of custom-house cases (although the clerk intrusted with them has devoted

himself far beyond the hours required by law, and has been obliged to allow, at no small inconvenience, much of the current business to fall in arrear; will still require several months to bring up.

If the business now devolved on this office is to be done, it is necessary that one additional permanent clerk, and one temporary clerk, should be added. The salary of the present permanent clerks is \$1,150, and \$800 will be sufficient for the necessary temporary aid.

I am, &c.,

H. D. GILPIN,
Solicitor of the Treasury.

Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

B 12.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
March 26, 1838.

SIR: In compliance with your requisition, on referring to this office the resolution of the Senate of the 9th instant, I submit the following report:

Inclusive of the three principal clerks, the aggregate number of clerks employed in this office is eighty-six, whose salaries, under the act of re-organization of July, 1836, are thus graded:

Three principal clerks, at	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,800
One clerk, whose annual salary shall not exceed	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Four clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Sixteen clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,300
Twenty clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
Five clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,100
Thirty-five clerks, do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
One draughtsman, do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
One assistant draughtsman, do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200

The following exhibit shows the number of clerks apportioned among the several bureaus and subdivisions into which the duties of this office are arranged, and the salary allotted to each:

Where disposed of.		\$1,800.	\$1,500.	\$1,400.	\$1,300.	\$1,200.	\$1,100.	\$1,000.	Aggregate.
Principal clerk of public lands	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	1	6
Principal clerk of private land claims	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Principal clerk of surveys	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	4
With the Solicitor of the General Land Office	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
With the Recorder of the General Land Office	-	-	-	-	2	5	2	24	33
Sub-divisions, { 1st. Of scrip and Virginia military bounty lands	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
2d. Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	4
3d. Pre-emption claims	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	5
Accountants and book keepers	-	-	-	2	4	2	-	-	8
Assistants	-	-	-	-	3	8	3	5	19
Number, as per appointment, to each grade	-	3	2	4	12	24	5	36	86
Number, in each grade, as allowed by law	-	3	2	4	16	21	5	35	86

Under the act of re-organization of 4th July, 1836, this office is divided into several bureaus, of which the duties confided to the three officers designated as principal clerk of the public lands, principal clerk of the surveys, and principal clerk on private land claims, may be arranged as follows:

BUREAU OF THE PRINCIPAL CLERK OF PUBLIC LANDS.

The principal clerk of public lands, who is constituted, by the law, the representative of the Commissioner, during his sickness, or absence, and is authorized to discharge the duties of the Commissioner, during the vacancy of the office, has, under the special direction of the Commissioner, as occasion may require, a supervision over the affairs of the office generally; is immediately called on by the accountants and book-keepers, in reference to the details of their duties; superintends the arrangements preliminary to the commencement of operations of new land offices; the preparation of land office forms; the drawing up of circulars of general instructions, and draughting bills on calls of committees of either House of Congress; attending to the due execution of land office bonds; the preparation of proclamations for public land sales; the preparation of statements in relation to sales of public lands for Congressional purposes, are duties attached to this bureau; also the purchasing of books, parchments, and stationery, with a heavy correspondence of a very miscellaneous nature, having reference to subjects not immediately referable to any specific branch of duty.

The principal clerk of public lands, and principal clerk of surveys, from the peculiar nature of the duties of the two bureaus, have frequently conjointly to attend to numerous subjects of an anomalous nature, having more or less reference to the duties of both those bureaus, and especially during emergencies of business, which are of frequent occurrence.

In an office whose details are so varied and multiplied, it is frequently difficult to draw lines of demarcation between many subjects of duty, and impossible to bring them all into notice in this report; but it may be said, with propriety, that nearly all subjects, not enumerated under any other specific heads in this report, are referable either to the bureau of public lands, or that of surveys.

BUREAU OF THE PRINCIPAL CLERK OF SURVEYS.

To the principal clerk of surveys is confided, by the law, the duty of directing and superintending "the making of surveys of public lands, the returns thereof, and all matters relating thereto, which are done through the offices of the surveyors general, and he is also required to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commissioner."

In addition to the stated duties, as implied in the foregoing, it is his duty, under the Commissioner, to regulate and direct the expenditures of the appropriations for clerk hire in the offices of the surveyors general, and to lay before the Commissioner, annually, exhibits of the progress and extent of the public surveys, and lands prepared for market in the several districts, and estimates of the surveying department, compiled from the reports of the surveyors general. The general supervision and direction of the duties of the draughtsmen in the construction of original maps, or copies thereof, for the purposes of Congress, the office or courts of justice.

A heavy amount of correspondence with the surveyors general and individuals is connected with the duties of this bureau, to which has been confided the subject of erecting fire proof buildings for the offices of the surveyors general, and, conjointly with that of principal clerk of public lands, the subject of the selections of canal grants; the survey of the town of Galena, and of the six Wisconsin towns; the construction of the boundary monument between Indiana and Illinois, with sundry other matters that may not be necessary to enter into the details of.

BUREAU OF THE PRINCIPAL CLERK OF PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS.

Under the direction of the Commissioner, he is charged with the investigation of all *private land claims*, derived either from the French, Spanish, British, or American Governments. It is his duty to ascertain whether they are confirmed or not by the various confirmatory laws; to prepare, when required, orders for the survey of them; to examine the surveys, and determine whether the surveys and locations are made in conformity to the original concessions, or other evidences of title; to prepare forms for, and issue the patent for such claims, describing, in most instances, the courses and lengths of the lines of the different surveys; to investigate and report to the Commissioner upon all cases of conflicting interests, under the numerous laws, on the subject of those claims. He has also charge of the preparation of patents for all grants made by special legislative enactments to bodies corporate, States or Territories; and of patents for *reservations* under the various *Indian treaties*; and makes all preparatory examinations respecting the locations, &c., of such reserves.

He also attends to all the correspondence arising in relation to the aforesaid private and Indian claims, and also in reference to unconfirmed claims; and it is his duty, under the direction of the Commissioner, to prepare reports, in answer to calls from Congress, or the committees of either House in relation to the subject of these claims; and where the opinion of the Commissioner is required to be submitted to Congress, touching the validity of claims, as is the case under the 2d section of the act of the 6th February, 1835, "for the final adjustment of claims to lands in the State of Louisiana," it is the duty of the principal clerk of this branch to examine all the papers presented in support of such claims, (and in many such cases the papers are in the original French and Spanish languages,) and report to the Commissioner in relation to the same.

By virtue of the law creating the office of principal clerk of private land claims, he is made the acting recorder of the General Land Office, in the absence of the recorder; and, as such, in addition to the duties enumerated, has, in the absence of the recorder, to sign patents, and take charge of that branch of the General Land Office. This latter branch of his duty has been onerous during the past year.

DUTIES OF THE SUBDIVISIONS.

Scrip and Virginia military bounty lands.—The duties of this division are the investigation of all title papers connected with warrants emanating either from the State of Virginia or the United States, on which scrip is required to be issued; also, the investigation of the titles to surveys founded on Virginia military land warrants, and the preparation of patents

thereon ; the preparation of numerous indexes connected with the granting of scrip and patents to bounty lands.

The preparation of exemplifications of patents issued, and also of the various evidences on which they are based, constitute a heavy item of the duties of this branch, and the requirements for such exemplifications are on the increase.

The abovementioned subjects, and the very numerous inquiries connected with each, involve a vast amount of research and correspondence, requiring careful and rigid scrutiny and laborious investigation, the complexity of which increases with the lapse of time.

MISCELLANEOUS SUBDIVISIONS.

The duties are various, as implied by its title, and have reference principally to patents for lands sold by the United States, and are thus designated :

The arrangement of the certificates of purchase in proper numerical order, after they have undergone the regular official checks by the book-keepers, and keeping a proper account of the same, preliminary to their being handed over to the recorder of the General Land Office for patenting. The account kept of such certificates is such that any individual certificate can be immediately traced to the particular clerk whose duty it is to write the patent.

Attending to correspondence under the laws authorizing the correction of all illegal or erroneous entries of land, and errors in the recital of names or tracts in patents, and finally disposing of all such cases ; also, to the correspondence connected with numerous patents already issued, as well as such as remain to be issued ; also, attending to the issuing of patents in individual cases, as required by special laws, and patents for bounty lands of the late war ; also, to the issuing of patents, in special cases, for lands purchased under the credit system ; also, to the preparation of exemplifications of the different kinds of patents granted, before mentioned, for military bounty lands of the late war, and patents for lands sold by the United States under the credit and cash systems, and of the evidences of title whereon the same are based ; duties involving much research, and which, from the nature of the subject, increase with the lapse of time.

PRE-EMPTION SUBDIVISION.

The duties are to examine the proof connected with each entry allowed by pre-emption at the district land offices, preliminary to the official determination upon the sufficiency of that proof, under the law and instructions ; also, to make similar investigations respecting the rights of conflicting claimants under the pre-emption laws, where the case has been referred to this office for advice by the district offices, or where reviewal of the proceedings of those offices is deemed necessary, from any cause ; to examine and make all the preliminary investigations necessary to lead to an official decision on the relative rights of individuals claiming under the pre-emption and donation laws of Congress, or by reason of Indian reservations ; to prepare and conduct the correspondence relative thereto with the district land offices, and in answer to any questions relative to pre-emption or donation claims, or the operation of those laws upon the public lands.

ACCOUNTANTS AND BOOK-KEEPERS.

It is the duty of the accountants to examine and adjust the quarterly accounts of the several receivers of public moneys and surveyors general, preparatory to the auditing of the same by the Commissioner. The accountants are also book-keepers; and they, with their assistants, over whose work they exercise a general superintendence, open from the plats of survey the tract-books intended for the registering of the sales of public lands, and register therein the sales reported from month to month. It is the duty of the accountants to attend to such matters of correspondence with the land officers as are connected with the details of their branch.

The tract-books are *numerical indices* to every tract of public land sold, or which is subject to sale, by the United States. A separate set of such books is opened for each land district, the aggregate number of districts being sixty-two. These books are opened by ranges of townships, each book containing about twenty townships, and a proper number of spaces are provided for the entry of each tract or legal subdivision of land in each section, in numerical order, of the thirty-six sections constituting a township. Appropriate columns are provided therein, in which are entered, from time to time, as the sales are reported, the name of the purchaser, his residence, the date of sale, number of the receiver's receipt, and number of certificate of purchase, opposite to and on the same line with the appropriate designation of the tract sold. Private claims, school lands, lands reserved from sale for military, naval, or other purposes, sites for light-houses, &c. &c., are specially noted on these tract-books, in order that they may constitute perfect checks on the operations of the land offices.

RECORDER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

Under the immediate supervision of the recorder, there are thirty-three clerks engaged in writing, recording, and examining patents for lands sold by the United States, and on duties connected with the transmission of the same to the appropriate land offices, and whose duty will be to prepare alphabetical indexes of the names of purchasers for each of the several land districts, so soon as the great mass of the cases still remaining to be carried into grant shall have been finally disposed of.

The accountants and book-keepers were recently apportioned to the duties of the several land districts, as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| One, with one assistant, for the books of the Ohio districts. | |
| One, with three assistants, | " Indiana " |
| One, with four assistants, | " Illinois " |
| One, with two assistants, | " Missouri " |
| One, with two assistants, | " Mississippi " |
| One, acting as such, with 2 assistants, for the books of the Alabama districts. | |
| One, with 2 assistants, for the books of the Louisiana districts. | |
| One, with 2 assistants, | " Michigan " |
| | { Arkansas |
| One, with 1 assistant, | " Florida " |
| | { Wisconsin |

Within a few months past, certain changes were found necessary in the apportionment of this force; and, from time to time, as the business of the district in any State or Territory was brought up, the surplus force was transferred to duty on a district in another State, and such will be the proceeding until the arrears in all the districts shall have been fully brought up; and whenever the convenience of the office so demands, as is the case at present in two instances, those of the assistant book-keepers who can be spared, will be temporarily assigned over to the recorder to write patents, or be allotted to duty in any one of the subdivisions of the office which may stand in need of further assistance.

From the nature of the duties of at least one-half of the clerks of this office, I am satisfied that their relative skill and industry can be shown to be more or less deserving of different grades of compensation, irrespective of the particular kinds of work they are engaged on, from the susceptibility of their work to be tested, by requiring periodical reports to be rendered of the amount of service performed, taken in connexion with the quality of the same. For example: a patent writer may so distinguish himself as to be shown conclusively to be more deserving of a higher grade of salary than a book-keeper. By the act reorganizing this office, the Commissioner being authorized to employ clerks at *not exceeding* certain different grades of salary, that authority was exercised in appointing all new clerks at the minimum grade of salary, for the purpose of testing the most worthy or efficient for subsequent promotion to the higher grades authorized by law. To enable the Commissioner to determine understandingly in this matter, periodical reports were required, of the character referred to; and it has been my endeavor, in making promotions, to conform to that principle as far as practicable, and to this regulation under the salary provision of the reorganization, in leaving room to the Commissioner for its exercise, is mainly to be ascribed, it is believed, as well the unexampled amount of business done in the office since that time, as exhibited in the last annual report, as also the superior neatness and accuracy of the work. It is therefore conceived that it would better comport with the ends of justice and sound policy, as tending to infuse a laudable spirit with a view to promotion, not to affix a permanent grade of salary to *any class of duties*, (excepting in the case of the principal clerks,) but to provide a certain number of salaries of *different grades*, to be bestowed, *from time to time*, on those who most distinguish themselves for their skill and industry. It is, moreover, believed that this plan would better accord with the spirit of the resolution, by making the compensation correspond with the actual service performed.

In view of this arrangement, and assuming that the general recommendation of the heads of departments should be four grades of salary, I would respectfully propose that there should be three grades intermediate, constituting an aggregate of seven grades for the Land Office. Thus, for example, exclusive of the three principal clerks, if the grades were \$1,800, \$1,600, \$1,400, \$1,200, the intermediate grades would be \$1,700, \$1,500, and \$1,300; and the number to each grade would be eleven at \$1,200, and twelve at each of the other grades respectively.

In reference to the grades of salary and the number allotted to each, by the law of reorganization, I find myself unable to distribute equal justice among those deemed equally meritorious, in consequence of the fewness of the number allotted to the higher grades.

In case the heads of departments should determine on grades of sala-

ries differing from those here assumed, in the way illustrated, I would respectfully suggest that, maintaining the principle of gradation herein proposed, the same relative proportions should be observed between the grades for the Land Office as those above designated.

Should it be apprehended that the plan proposed should interfere with the uniformity of the grades proposed in other branches of the public service, it is, with all deference, suggested that the provision recommended be embraced in a separate section of any bill which may be introduced. In that case, I would recommend that the number of clerks in the lowest grade of salary be fixed at "not less than eleven," and that, if it be deemed expedient to fix the number of those assigned to each of the superior grades of salary, the option be given to the Commissioner to place them, from time to time, at any inferior grade, with the view of making their compensation correspond more accurately with their relative merits, to be ascertained from actual trial and experience.

In reference to the principal clerk of public lands, the principal clerk of private land claims, and principal clerk of surveys, officers acting, by law, under the commission of the President of the United States, I have to state that their duties are laborious, as well as complicated and multifarious, and as highly responsible and important as those intrusted to any other of the subordinate agents of the Government. In view of these facts, I am of opinion that their compensation ought to be at least the same as that which may be determined on for the chief clerks of the several Executive departments.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES WHITCOMB,
Commissioner.

The honorable LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
April 5, 1828.

SIR: In conformity with the understanding between the heads of the different Executive departments, that their several answers to the resolution of the Senate of the 9th ultimo, respecting the classification and improvement in classification of the clerks employed in those departments, should be sent to the State Department for transmission thence to the Senate, I have the honor to enclose you a statement, which contains the information and embodies the suggestions respecting the clerks of this department, required by the resolution in question.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State.

STATEMENT respecting the clerks in the War Department, including the bureaus and offi

OFFICE OR BUREAU.	No. of clerks in each office.	Exhibit of the No. of clerks employed in the War paid to them; and of the No. in each office or bureau					
		1st rate, and No. at that rate.		2d rate, and number at that rate.			
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.
Office of the Secretary of War and Bounty Land Office.	9	1	\$2,000	-	-	-	-
Indian Office - - -	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pension Office - - -	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commanding General's Office -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjutant General's Office	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quartermaster General's Office -	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office Commissary General of Subsistence.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commissary General of Purchases including Clothing Bureau.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surgeon General's Office -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paymaster General's Office -	4	-	-	1	\$1,700	\$170	\$1,870
Engineer Office - - -	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ordnance Office - - -	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Topographical Office - -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

cers connected therewith, made in conformity with the resolution of the Senate of March 9, 1836.

Department, and in each of the bureaus and offices thereof; of the various rates of compensation at each rate of compensation, as required by the two first sub-divisions of the resolution.

3d rate, and number at that rate.				4th rate, and number at that rate.				5th rate, and number at that rate.				6th rate, and number at that rate.			
Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.	Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.	Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.	Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.
1	\$1,600	\$160	\$1,760	-	-	-	-	3	\$1,400	\$140	\$1,540				
1	1,600	160	1,760	-	-	-	-	1	1,400	140	1,540				
2	1,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1,400	-	-				
1	1,600	160	1,760	-	-	-	-	5	1,400	140	1,540				
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	\$1,200		
1	1,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,200		
1	1,600	160	1,760	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,200	\$120	\$1,320
-	-	-	-	1	\$1,550	\$155	\$1,705								
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,400	140	1,540				
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,200		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,200		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

STATEMENT

OFFICE OR BUREAU.		No. of clerks in each office.	Exhibit of the number of clerks employed in the War paid to them; and of the number in each office or bureau							
			7th rate, and number at that rate.				8th rate, and number at that rate.			
			Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.	Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.
Office of the Secretary of War and Bounty Land Office.		9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Indian Office - - -		12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pension Office - - -		15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Commanding General's Office -		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Adjutant General's Office -		7	1	\$1,150	\$115	\$1,265	-	-	-	
Quartermaster General's Office -		6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Office Commissary General of Subsistence.		3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Commissary General of Purchases including Clothing Bureau.		4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Surgeon General's Office -		1	1	1,150	115	1,265	-	-	-	
Paymaster General's Office -		4	2	1,150	115	1,265	-	-	-	
Engineer Office - - -		5	1	1,150	115	1,265	-	-	-	
Ordnance Office - - -		8	1	1,150	115	1,265	-	-	-	
Topographical Office - -		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

—Continued.

Department, and in each of the bureaus and offices thereof; of the various rates of compensation at each rate of compensation, as required by the two first sub-divisions of the resolution.

9th rate, and number at that rate.				10th rate, and number at that rate.				11th rate, and number at that rate.			
Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.	Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.	Number.	Rate.	Per centage.	Aggregate.
4	\$1,000	\$200	\$1,200								
2 3	1,000 1,000	200	1,200								
6	1,000	200	1,200	-	-	-	-	3	\$800	\$160	\$960
1	1,000										
1 3	1,000 1,000	200	1,200	-	-	-	-	1	800	160	960
4	1,000										
1	1,000	200	1,200								
1	1,000	200	1,200	2	\$950	\$190	\$1,140				
1 1	1,000 1,000	200	1,200	-	-	-	-	1	800	160	960
4 1	1,000 1,000	200	1,200	-	-	-	-	1	800	160	960
1 1	1,000 1,000	200	1,200								

STATEMENT—Continued.

OFFICE OR BUREAU.				No. of clerks in each office.	CLASSIFICATION—showing the classification, the proposed improvement in the classification with respect to compensation, and, by comparison with the foregoing, the present inequalities of compensation, as required by the third and fourth sub-divisions of the resolution.											
					1st class.		2d class.		3d class.		4th class.		5th class.		6th class.	
					Number.	Compensation.	Number.	Compensation.	Number.	Compensation.	Number.	Compensation.	Number.	Compensation.	Number.	Compensation.
Office of the Secretary of War and Bounty Land Office.				9	1	\$2,200	2	\$1,800	2	\$1,600	2	\$1,400	2	\$1,200		
*Indian Office - - -				12	-	-	1	1,800	5	1,600	4	1,400	2	1,200		
Pension Office - - -				15	-	-	1	1,800	5	1,600	-	-	7	1,200	2	1,000
Commanding General's Office -				1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,200		
Adjutant General's Office -				7	-	-	-	-	2	1,600	2	1,400	2	1,200	1	1,000
Quartermaster General's Office -				6	-	-	-	-	1	1,600	2	1,400	1	1,200	2	1,000
†Office Commissary General of Subsistence.				3	-	-	-	-	1	1,600	2	1,400				
Commissary General of Purchases including Clothing Bureau.				4	-	-	-	-	1	1,600	1	1,400	2	1,200		
Surgeon General's Office -				1	-	-	-	-	1	1,600						
Paymaster General's Office -				4	-	-	1	1,800	3	1,600						
Engineer Office - - -				5	-	-	-	-	1	1,600	2	1,400	1	1,200	1	1,000
Ordnance Office - - -				8	-	-	-	-	2	1,600	3	1,400	2	1,200	1	1,000
Topographical Office - -				2	-	-	-	-	1	1,600	1	1,400				

* Application has been made to Congress for four additional clerks in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who are absolutely necessary to the prompt and proper performance of the business of that office; and if they are granted it is recommended that the third class of compensation be allowed to one, the fourth class to two, and the fifth class to the other.

† The Commissary General of Subsistence recommends that his principal clerk be allowed the second rate of compensation, and his other two the third rate, and urges strong reasons in favor thereof. Application has been made for two additional clerks in this office, which the business of the office renders indispensable; and, if they be provided, it is recommended that one be placed, in respect to compensation, in the fifth class, and the other in the sixth.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
April 18, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose to you statements containing the information required by the resolution of the Senate of the United States of the 9th of March last, respecting the classification and improvement in classification, &c., of the clerks employed in this department, that you may communicate them with those of other heads of departments, agreeably to an understanding among them, to the Senate.

I am your obedient, humble servant,

MAHLON DICKERSON.

The Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
March 17, 1838.

In reply to the several points of inquiry contained in the first resolution of the Senate of the United States, dated the 9th of March, 1838, so far as relates to his own office, the Secretary of the Navy states—

1st point of inquiry—The number of clerks in the office of the Secretary of the Navy, including the chief clerk, and the clerk of the pension and hospital funds, is nine.

2d point of inquiry—The compensation allowed to them, respectively, is as follows:

To the chief clerk	- - - - -	\$2,000
To one clerk, corresponding clerk	- - - - -	1,600
To one clerk, pension clerk	- - - - -	1,600
To one clerk, register of the navy	- - - - -	1,400
To one clerk, recording and copying clerk	- - - - -	1,400
To one clerk, warrant clerk and agent for paying salaries, &c.	- - - - -	1,000
To one clerk, register of correspondence	- - - - -	1,000
To one clerk, corresponding and recording clerk	- - - - -	1,000
To one clerk, recording and copying clerk	- - - - -	800

3d point of inquiry—The classification of the above clerks, in reference to the character of the labor to be performed, care and responsibility imposed, qualifications required, and the relative value to the public of the services of each class, as compared with the others, to be as follows:

1st. The *chief* clerk.

2d. The first corresponding clerk; the clerk of the pension and hospital funds; the register of the navy; and the warrant clerk, and agent, &c.

3d. The register of correspondence, and the corresponding and recording clerk, each of whom now receives \$1,000; and,

4th. The copying and recording clerks.

4th point of inquiry—With a classification as suggested in the preceding point of inquiry, justice will be done to the clerks respectively, and the interests of the service be promoted.

The Secretary submits herewith a statement by the Commissioners of the Navy, in reply to the points of inquiry embraced in the resolution of the Senate, as regards the clerks in their office.

MAHLON DICKERSON.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
March 16, 1838.

SIR: The Board of Navy Commissioners have received your letter of the 12th inst., covering copy of a resolution of the Senate of the United States, calling for information in relation to the clerks in the different departments, and, in compliance with your directions, have the honor to submit the following statement: With reference to the *first* head, upon which a report is required, the board respectfully state, that, besides their secretary, who performs much labor in addition to his general duties, as defined by law, the *number* of clerks attached to the Navy Commissioners' office, including one who also acts as draughtsman, is seven.

2d. The rate of compensation, and the number at each rate, is as follows:

1 at \$1,600.

1 at \$1,150.

5 at \$1,000 each per annum.

3d. The character of the labor to be performed may be best ascertained by a statement of general duties, which are now assigned to each, as stated in the accompanying paper, A.

With respect to the classification of the clerks, in reference to the character of the duties they perform, it is evident that the duties of the chief clerk are of a character to place him in a distinct class by himself. When it is recollected that the duties of the Board of Navy Commissioners require a constant correspondence with the head of the Navy Department, with the commandants of navy-yards, navy agents, contractors, commanders of squadrons abroad, and an extensive miscellaneous correspondence with others, and upon several classes of subjects, which, in the Department of War, are distributed to distinct and separate bureaus, it may readily be conceived, that the character of the duties to be performed by the chief clerk requires a combination of intelligence and industry, and imposes an amount of labor, which should entitle him to equal consideration and emolument with the chief clerk of any other office or bureau which is subordinate to the head of a department.

The character of the duties which would be assigned to the first contract clerks, and to the clerks charged with keeping the store accounts, and the accounts of the cost of vessels and other objects, would form the *first* class of the clerks below the chief clerk.

The *second* class of clerks would embrace the second contract clerk, the clerk charged with the special accounts of timber, and with copying the instructions for constructors, and for contractors for timber, &c.

The *third* class would embrace the clerk who received and registered the letters received in the office, the clerk who records the letters written, and the draughtsman.

The character and amount of labor which would devolve on the clerks, in the respective classes, would probably be equal to that which would fall to the share of clerks in corresponding classes in other offices, and entitle them to an equal compensation.

With regard to the present relative duties and compensation of the clerks, it is believed that the duties which are performed by the clerk who now

receives \$1,150, are not so important as those of the contract clerks and some others who receive \$1,000; and that the duties of the contract clerk are more important than those of others, who receive an equal salary.

As the *amount* of compensation which it would be proper for the respective classes of the clerks seems to be referred to the heads of the departments, the board have only respectfully to request that attention from the Secretary of the Navy, to the relative claims of the clerks in their office, to which he may consider them justly entitled.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

I. CHAUNCEY.

HON. MAHLON DICKERSON,

Secretary of the Navy.

A.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,

March 16, 1838.

Chief clerk, has the general charge of the books, records, and furniture of the office; the general direction and distribution of extra duties to be performed by the respective clerks; receives from the commissioners all letters and papers, and all the reports and returns from the several navy yards and navy agents; notes the date of their receipt, and prepares them for distribution to the clerks having charge of the duties to which they respectively pertain. He receives daily the notes or instructions from the commissioners, or their secretary, respecting the correspondence, and as to his general and special duties. He writes most of the letters from the minutes of the secretary, under the direction of the board, and copies others which are written by the board. Keeps a key to all letters written, showing their dates, and to whom addressed, with a brief note of their contents. Under the directions of the board he makes some of the calculations for, and superintends the preparation of the details of the annual estimates, and such other estimates, statements, and reports as may from time to time be required from him. He arranges statements by which to regulate the orders for shipments of stores and provisions abroad, and is expected to be prepared to furnish the board with any information they may require in relation to the general business of the office.

One clerk is employed to register, file, and keep all the letters received at the office, and to record the annual estimates and invoices of all the stores and provisions shipped to foreign stations; to keep a register of condemned articles reported from foreign stations, &c., and to assist, when called upon, in copying letters and papers to be sent from the office.

One clerk receives, examines, and files all the pay rolls and reports from the navy yards. He has the immediate charge of all the books in which are recorded the amount of labor and materials, and the time and money expended on the ships and vessels built and repaired; the expenditures on dry docks, hospitals, and all the improvements at the several navy yards.

He examines, registers, and prepares all accounts presented for the approval of the board, and which are payable on that special order, and assists, when required, in performing the incidental business of the office.

One clerk prepares, under the direction of the board, advertisements for offers to furnish supplies for the navy; endorses, files, and prepares scales of the offers received, to be submitted to the Secretary of the Navy, and for the final action of the board; he records the scales of offers, fills up the contracts and bonds, records the same, and makes copies of contracts for the guidance of the commandants of the yards and navy agents; he receives, files, and registers the monthly statements of contracts and purchases made by the navy agents; he keeps the contract leger, and assists in the performance of such other incidental duty as may be required of him.

One clerk receives, examines, and files all the storekeepers' monthly returns from the several navy yards, posting them under their several heads of appropriation, in abstract books kept for that purpose for each navy yard, showing the quantities and the cost of the several classes of articles reported on hand by the storekeepers respectively, comparing and checking them with the general survey or annual returns which are made by officers appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the quantities actually remaining in charge of the navy storekeepers; he receives the log books of the several vessels of war, which are returned to this office, labelling and registering the same for convenient reference; he keeps accounts of the state of the supplies on hand at foreign stations; endorses and files bills of lading for all shipments to the squadrons abroad, as well as those made to and from the several navy yards, and assists in such other incidental duty as may be required of him.

One clerk has charge of the books, in which he records all letters written by the board to the Secretary of the Navy, to the commanding officers of squadrons, to the commandants of the yards and stations, and all other officers of the navy; to the navy agents, contractors, and to miscellaneous correspondents, each in their respective books; he is required to take, endorse, and file all the press copies of the same, and to do such extra copying and other incidental services as may be necessary.

One draughtsman, who makes copies of draughts, plans, maps, and charts, or prepares such original plans as may be directed by the board; he has charge of, files, and registers all the draughts and plans, &c., belonging to the office, and translates occasionally from French into English such letters, papers, or publications relating to ship building and naval affairs, as the board may direct.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

May 8, 1838.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution adopted by the Senate on the 9th day of March last, I have the honor to make the following report:

1. The number of clerks employed in this department is forty-five, viz:
In the contract office, seventeen;
In the appointment office, nine;
In the inspection office, seven;

In the miscellaneous division, twelve.

2. The rates of compensation of these clerks are as follows, viz :

	At \$2,000	\$1,600	\$1,400	\$1,200	\$1,000	No.
Contract office -	-	1	5	9	2	17
Appointment office -	-	1	3	4	1	9
Inspection office -	-	1	2	3	1	7
Miscellaneous division -	1	1*	2	3	5	12

* Topographer.

3. The following is as accurate a classification as the clerical force of this department seems to be susceptible of, viz :

First class. The chief clerk of the department. Salary \$2,000 per annum.

Second class. The principal clerks of the contract, appointment, and inspection offices, the topographer of the department, and the principal dead letter clerk, who is also pay agent for salaries and contingent. Salaries: The principal clerks, \$1,600 each; the topographer, \$1,600; principal dead letter clerk and pay agent, \$1,400.

Third class. The corresponding clerks of the contract office, six in number; the corresponding clerks of the appointment office, four in number; the corresponding clerks of the inspection office, five in number; the journal clerk of the Postmaster General; the warrant clerk, and the mail depredation clerk. Salaries: Five corresponding clerks of the contract office, three of the appointment office, two of the inspection office, and the warrant clerk, \$1,400 each; one corresponding clerk of the contract office, one of the appointment office, three of the inspection office, the mail depredation clerk, and the journal clerk, \$1,200 each.

Perhaps the duties of the corresponding clerks of the contract office are of the highest value and responsibility, as they are the journeymen builders of the mail system under the direction of the First Assistant Postmaster General, and ought to possess a high grade of intellect, patient industry, and extensive literary acquirements.

The corresponding clerks of the appointment office are nearly upon their level in importance, and ought to possess similar talents and acquirements.

The duties of corresponding clerks in the inspection office require a good mind, great system, persevering industry and ability, to write a good letter.

The topographer should possess talents and acquirements of the highest order.

The situation of principal dead letter clerk and pay agent, is one of the highest responsibility, and requires good talents, great care, and respectable attainments.

Fourth class. To this class belong the route register clerk, the report and register clerk, the contract clerk, and the clerk having charge of the business of mail-bags, locks, and keys; of the contract office, the record and register clerks, two in number, and the bond clerk of the appointment office; the register of accounts and the examiner of dead letter way-bills,

in the miscellaneous division ; and the superintendent of the building and of purchases. Salaries: \$1,200 each, except the register of accounts and the examiner of dead letter way-bills, who receive \$1,000 each.

Fifth class. Two letter-book clerks in the contract office, one in the appointment office, one in the inspection office, one in the miscellaneous division, and two openers of dead letters. Salaries \$1,000 each.

4. No changes or improvements in the classification of clerks, in reference to compensation, suggest themselves more conducive to justice and the interests of the public service than the existing arrangement.

It will be perceived by the foregoing classification, that there are "inequalities of compensation among clerks performing the same class of duties;" but this is deemed neither unjust nor improper. Their services, though of the same class and of the same character, are not of equal value to the public, in consequence of unavoidable differences in capacity, attainments, industry, and experience. A clerk just assigned to duties of any particular class, is incompetent to render so great or such valuable service, as one who has been long trained in those duties, and it is but just that his compensation should be less. Besides, the hope of preferment to a higher rate of salary is a powerful incentive to urge him on to perfection in his new vocation, which would be entirely wanting, if rapid improvement were not likely to be followed by speedy advancement. It seems, therefore, to be good policy to maintain a difference of salary attached to duties of the same class.

I have not included the three Assistant Postmasters General in this classification, because they do not seem to be included in the call. Their labors, it is well known, are not inferior to those of the Navy Commissioners, the Commissioners of Patents, of Pensions, and of the Land Office, although their salaries are \$1,000 less than some, and \$500 less than the rest of those officers, and in any legislation on the subject, justice assuredly requires that they should not be forgotten.

Nor have I included the messenger and assistant messengers of the department, whose constant attentions to duty and high responsibility deserve a higher compensation, especially the assistants, now at \$350, as well from the intrinsic merits of the case as to put them on an equality with the assistant messengers of other offices.

It is proper to remark that the topographer, at \$1,600; two clerks, at \$1,400; four, at \$1,200, and one at \$1,000, included in the foregoing classification, were employed under the authority of a clause in the appropriation bill of last year, and do not constitute a part of the regular force of the department. The appropriation to pay them is exhausted, and they remain in the service voluntarily, and without pay, because, from the obvious necessity of their aid, from the fact that the Senate passed a bill adding precisely the same force to the department at the last session, and the House of Representatives, not having time to act on it, provided for their payment for one year, they confidently expect that their situations will be made permanent before the close of the present session.

Herewith I transmit a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Vice President and President of the Senate, in 1836, in relation to the grades of salary for the officers and clerks of this department. My views, as expressed therein, have undergone no material change.

I send, also, a printed paper, exhibiting a statement of the salaries then proposed in comparison with the salaries received in other departments and

offices, and other particulars. During last year the clerks of most of the other departments and offices received an advance of 10 to 20 per cent. on their salaries, which was not enjoyed by the clerks of this department.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

AMOS KENDALL.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,

President of the Senate.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

May 9, 1836.

SIR: In obedience to the resolution of the Senate, adopted on the 25th ultimo, directing the several heads of the Executive departments to report to the Senate their several and respective opinions upon the justice and propriety of increasing the compensation of all or any of the clerks in their respective departments, I have the honor to submit the following report:

In 1818, the clerks of this department were fixed, by law, at one chief clerk, at a salary of \$1,700; two clerks at salaries of \$1,400 each; five at \$1,200; nine at \$1,000; and four at \$800; making twenty-one in all.

In 1824, four clerks were added, at \$1,000 each, and two at \$800.

In 1827, one clerk was added, at \$1,400, and five at \$1,000 each.

In 1828, five clerks were added, at \$1,000 each.

No additions have been made since, by law, and the present legal provision for this department is as follows, viz:

1 chief clerk, at a salary of	-	-	-	-	\$1,700
3 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	1,400
5 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	1,200
23 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	1,000
6 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	800

38 clerks in all.

This force has long since been found inadequate to perform the labors of the department, and for many years past the Postmaster General has employed extra clerks, whose compensation has, in the first instance, been paid out of the funds of the department, and the amount afterwards appropriated by Congress and refunded out of the Treasury. The actual force of the department, in clerks, as it at present exists, is as follows:

1 chief clerk	-	-	-	-	\$1,700
3 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	1,400
9 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	1,200
1 clerk, at	-	-	-	-	1,100
24 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	1,000
7 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	900
42 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	800
4 clerks, each at	-	-	-	-	600
1 clerk at	-	-	-	-	500

92 clerks in all, including the superintendent of the building and openers of dead letters.

Two assistant Postmasters General, at salaries of \$2,500 each, a messenger, at \$700, one assistant messenger, at \$400, two at \$350, two night-watch, at \$250 each, and two laborers, at \$240 each, make up the entire force now employed in and about the Post Office Department.

To afford a distinct view of the subject of salaries in this department, it appears necessary to travel beyond the words of the resolution, and consider the rate of compensation now paid to the persons employed, from the assistant Postmasters General to the laborers, inclusive. Before entering into an examination of the particular points, the undersigned begs leave to submit the following list of officers and clerks necessary, under its present organization, to the proper administration of this department, with such salaries annexed as in his opinion are best adapted to the faithful and energetic performance of its complicated duties :

Four assistant Postmasters General, each at	\$3,000
One chief clerk, each at	2,400
Eight principal clerks, each at	1,800
Twenty clerks, each at	1,500
Forty clerks, each at	1,200
Twenty clerks, each at	900
One messenger, at	900
Three assistant messengers, each at	600
Two night-watch, each at	300
Two laborers, each at	300

Each of these sums affords an equal subdivision by twelve. Salaries are paid at the end of each calendar month, and the present rates produce fractions in the accounts. Simplicity is deemed as essential in public accounts as in anything else, and it appears to the undersigned that it should not be overlooked in fixing on a tariff of salaries.

There are now four divisions in the interior organization of the department, the duties of which are of the most arduous character. At the head of two of these divisions are the two assistants now allowed by law, at salaries of \$2,500; at the head of the third is the chief clerk, at a salary of \$1,700; and at the head of the fourth is a clerk, denominated the accountant, at a salary of \$1,400. There are no auditors in the Government whose duties are more laborious and responsible than those performed by the heads of these divisions, and none who deserve higher compensation. The chief clerk, who performs the duties of chief clerk in addition to those of the head of a division, is now paid \$300 less than the chief clerks of the other departments; and the accountant, who has under his supervision and direction about fifty clerks, and encounters more labor and responsibility than any auditor, receives a grade of pay \$300 less than an auditor's chief clerk!

The principal clerks, as they are called, constitute a class of clerks not known, at least to the same extent, in any other department. To the heads of divisions, a part of them occupy the relation of chief clerks. In the division of accountants, there are several who superintend the subdivisions, such as the solicitor, who superintends four or five clerks, the chief examiner, who has under him about twenty clerks, the principal register, who has about ten clerks, principal pay-clerk, &c. There are now seven clerks occupying these positions, and there should be an eighth in the miscellaneous division. They should be raised in salary above the ordinary clerks, and to that end the undersigned has proposed for them \$1,800 each.

Three grades, \$1,500, \$1,200, and \$900, are proposed for the salaries of ordinary clerks. A salary of \$900 will support a single man in this city, and if he be prudent, afford him a moderate income. A married man, without children, can barely subsist upon it. For him, a salary of \$1,200 is less than a salary of \$900 for a single man; and if he have a family of children, he can lay up less out of \$1,500, than the single man can out of \$900. Indeed, these rates of salary would afford the clerks generally little more than the means of subsistence for themselves and families. They are not, therefore, unreasonably high.

The present salary of the messenger of this department is \$700. Formerly he enjoyed perquisites in the waste paper, &c., which are supposed to have made his compensation more than \$1,000. Deeming the whole matter of perquisites to be of evil tendency, the undersigned has abolished them, and directed all waste paper, old furniture, &c., &c., to be sold for the benefit of the department. He deems it but just, however, to replace them, in part, to an officer so confidential and so constantly employed, by a direct increase of his salary.

The assistant messengers also had their perquisites, which have been cut off. One of them formerly received \$200 as librarian, making his compensation \$600, besides perquisites. The other two received \$350 and \$300, with a participation in the perquisites. It would be right to place them all at \$600.

Heretofore \$500 per year have been appropriated by Congress for two watchmen. It is proposed to increase their compensation to \$300 each.

It will have been perceived that four persons only are employed in the department as messengers, each of whom, on an average, is obliged to attend upon twenty-four officers and clerks. The average force employed upon that duty in other departments, compared with the number to be served, is about double. In this department it is found absolutely necessary to employ laborers to aid them, and perform much other service, in doors and out, which does not usually fall within the scope of messengers' duties. Two have generally been employed, and it is anticipated that two will hereafter find constant employment. It is proposed to put them on regular pay, at \$300 each.

It is true that even the lower salaries in this department are much sought after, and there are generally from one to two hundred applicants on hand who would be willing to accept of even \$300. But they are almost exclusively young unmarried men, men in desperate circumstances, or men who are incompetent to make a living elsewhere, and seek for these appointments as a means of meagre support to themselves and families. The consequence is, that a large proportion, probably a considerable majority, of the clerks of this department are hopeless insolvents, and many of them put to great straits even to subsist themselves and families on their present compensation. The payment of old debts is out of the question. When they die their families are instantly reduced to extreme want, and instances are not uncommon in which resort is immediately had to contributions for means to bury the dead, and furnish bread to the living.

There are many excellent clerks in this department, but the undersigned is satisfied, that with the salaries proposed, he would be able, on the whole, much to improve the corps in talents, efficiency, and character. The number proposed is somewhat less than the number now employed, and he would have recommended a more extensive reduction, but for the certain

prospect of an immediate increase of about one-fourth in the business of the department, which will produce a great increase of labor. With the means of present support, and a prospect of advancement to liberal salaries, he thinks he can induce men of a high grade of intellect and business qualifications to enter into the public service, and render unnecessary, for the present, a further increase of clerks.

Appointments to the more honorable and lucrative stations in this Government have been heretofore, and will be hereafter, made chiefly upon political considerations. When a citizen leaves his home in the States, and accepts a clerkship in the District of Columbia as a permanent employment, he, in effect, surrenders all prospect of rising to the higher honors of his country, and even all hope of acquiring extensive wealth. Faithful clerks have sometimes, though not often, been advanced to chief clerks; but probably no case has occurred since the organization of the Government, in which they have been promoted to the higher stations. It seems but right that men of talents and of great business qualifications, who voluntarily relinquish all high aspirations, and content themselves with the distinction which is to be gained within the walls of the Executive departments, should be paid by their country a compensation so liberal that they will not be obliged to raise their children in ignorance, and leave their families in want.

That there is much improvidence among clerks, cannot be denied. But with most of the present rates of salary, it matters little to their families, in the end, whether they are improvident or not. While they live, the families of the provident undoubtedly enjoy a higher degree of comfort; but upon their death or removal from office, the wives and children of all are plunged into the same condition of destitution and distress. If there be exceptions, they are but evidences of superior tact, management, and economy.

In concluding this report, the undersigned begs leave to call the attention of the Senate to the fact that more than one-half of the force of this department is employed without warrant of law. That portion of his force, he should feel it his duty to discharge, until it should be legalized by act of Congress, if only an inconvenience at all tolerable in its nature and extent would be the result. But when he knows that such a step would stop, to a most fatal extent, the operations of the department, and bring incalculable mischief on the country, he feels himself obliged to persist in the employment of clerks, thus far unauthorized by Congress, though for years excused by appropriations to refund the resulting expenditure. He cannot, however, but express the earnest hope, that Congress will, before the close of the present session, put an end, by the necessary legislation, to a state of things so disreputable to our Government, and so well calculated to excuse future assumptions of unauthorized power by the heads of Executive departments.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

AMOS KENDALL.

Hon. MARTIN VAN BUREN,

Vice President, and President of the Senate.

CONDENSED VIEW

OF

THE NUMBER OF CLERKS, &c.

These are published for the use of the Clerks Department
of the Treasury and are intended to show the number of
clerks employed in each of the principal Departments and the
number of Clerks employed in each of the principal
Divisions of the Treasury Department.

CONDENSED VIEW of the number of clerks employed in each of the chief Executive Departments and the two Houses of Congress, and their several and aggregate salaries, compared with the proposed number and salaries of those to be employed in the Post Office Department.

State Department.			Treasury Department.			War Department.			Navy Department.		
Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.
1	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00	1	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00	1	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00	1	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00
2	1,600 00	3,200 00	2	1,600 00	3,200 00	1	1,600 00	1,600 00	2	1,600 00	3,200 00
1	1,500 00	1,500 00	6	1,400 00	8,400 00	2	1,400 00	2,800 00	2	1,400 00	2,800 00
1	1,450 00	1,450 00	3	1,150 00	3,450 00	2	1,000 00	2,000 00	3	1,000 00	3,000 00
6	1,400 00	8,400 00	1	1,000 00	1,000 00	1	800 00	800 00	1	800 00	800 00
1	1,000 00	1,000 00									
1	900 00	900 00									
1	800 00	800 00									
14	-	19,250 00	13	-	18,050 00	7	-	9,200 00	9	-	11,800 00
	Average	1,375 00		-	1,388 46		-	1,314 28		-	1,311 11
		142 50		-	131 15		-	142 85		-	151 11
Average with the per centage - -		1,517 50		-	1,519 61		-	1,457 13		-	1,463 22

CONDENSED VIEW—Continued.

Senate and House of Representatives.			Post Office Department, as recommended by the Postmaster General.			Same as reported by committee.		Same as adopted by the House in committee.		Same as provided by law of 2d of July, 1836, changing the organization of the department.		
Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.
3	\$1,800 00	\$3,600 00	1	\$2,400 00	\$2,400 00	\$2,100 00	\$2,100 00	\$1,700 00	\$1,700 00	1	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00
1	1,500 00	12,000 00	3	1,800 00	5,400 00	1,700 00	5,100 00	1,400 00	4,200 00	3	1,600 00	4,800 00
1	1,000 00	1,000 00	10	1,500 00	15,000 00	1,400 00	14,000 00	1,200 00	12,000 00	10	1,400 00	14,000 00
1	900 00	900 00	15	1,200 00	18,000 00	1,200 00	18,000 00	1,000 00	15,000 00	15	1,200 00	18,000 00
			8	900 00	7,200 00	900 00	7,200 00	800 00	6,400 00	8	1,000 00	8,000 00
12		17,500 00	37	-	48,000 00	-	46,400 00	-	39,300 00		-	46,800 00
Average		1,458 33 161 67		-	1,297 30	-	1,254 05	-	1,062 16		No per cent	age allowed.
Average, with the per centage	-	1,620 00	Average of the salaries paid in Post Office Department, under the act of 2d July, 1836									
												\$1,264 86

CONDENSED VIEW of the number of clerks employed in the five offices of Auditors, and their several and aggregate salaries, compared with the proposed number and salaries of those to be employed in the Auditor's Office for the Post Office Department.

First Auditor.			Second Auditor.			Third Auditor.			Fourth Auditor.		
Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.
1	\$1,700 00	\$1,700 00	1	\$1,700 00	\$1,700 00	1	\$1,700 00	\$1,700 00	1	\$1,700 00	\$1,700 00
2	1,400 00	2,800 00	2	1,400 00	2,800 00	5	1,400 00	7,000 00	2	1,400 00	2,800 00
6	1,150 00	6,900 00	6	1,150 00	6,900 00	2	1,150 00	2,300 00	5	1,150 00	5,750 00
2	1,000 00	2,000 00	5	1,000 00	5,000 00	4	1,000 00	4,000 00	6	1,000 00	6,000 00
1	800 00	800 00	1	800 00	800 00	2	800 00	1,600 00			
12	-	14,200 00	15	-	17,200 00	20	-	23,500 00	14	-	16,250 00
Average	-	1,183 33		-	1,146 66		-	1,175 00		-	1,160 71
		141 67		-	153 34		-	145 50		-	158 93
Average, with the per centage	-	1,325 00		-	1,300 00		-	1,320 50		-	1,319 64

CONDENSED VIEW—Continued.

Fifth Auditor.			Auditor Post Office Department, as recommended by Postmaster General.			Same as reported by committee.		Same as adopted by the House.		Same, as provided by law of 2d of July, 1836, changing the organization of the Post Office Dept.		
Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Rate of salary.	Total.	Number of clerks.	Rate of salary.	Total.
1	\$1,700 00	\$1,700 00	1	\$2,100 00	\$2,100 00	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00	\$1,700 00	\$1,700 00	1	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00
2	1,400 00	2,800 00	4	1,800 00	7,200 00	1,700 00	6,800 00	1,400 00	5,600 00	4	1,600 00	6,400 00
3	1,150 00	3,450 00	10	1,500 00	15,000 00	1,400 00	14,000 00	1,200 00	12,000 00	10	1,400 00	14,000 00
4	1,000 00	4,000 00	20	1,200 00	24,000 00	1,200 00	24,000 00	1,000 00	20,000 00	20	1,200 00	24,000 00
			8	900 00	7,200 00	900 00	7,200 00	800 00	6,400 00	8	1,000 00	8,000 00
10	-	11,950 00	43	-	55,500 00	-	54,000 00	-	45,700 00		-	54,400 00
	Average	1,195 00 159 50		-	1,290 69	-	1,255 81	-	1,062 19		No per centage allowed.	
	Average, with the per centage	1,354 50										\$1,265 12
			Average of salaries, per act of 2d July, 1836, established in Auditor's office for Post Office Department									

REMARKS.

The first of the foregoing tables shows that the salaries recommended by the Postmaster General for the clerks to be employed in the Post Office Department, are less, on an average, than those now paid in any other of the chief Executive offices; that the average of those reported by the committee are still lower; and that those adopted by the House are lower by nearly 25 per cent.

Why should the chief clerk of every other department receive \$2,000, and the chief clerk of the Post Office Department but \$1,700?

Why should the State Department have two clerks, at \$1,600 each, out of fourteen; the Treasury Department, two out of thirteen; the War Department, one out of seven; the Navy Department, two out of nine; and the Post Office Department, *not one out of thirty-seven*?

Why should the State Department have one clerk at \$1,500, one at \$1,450, and six at \$1,400, out of fourteen; the Treasury Department, six at \$1,400, out of thirteen; the Navy Department, two at \$1,400, out of nine; and the Post Office Department, *only three, at \$1,400, out of thirty-seven*?

Surely no reason for this disparity can be found in the less importance of the Post Office Department, or the less labor performed by its clerks.

But by comparing the first table with the second, it will be perceived, that the average of salaries adopted for the Post Office Department is far below that existing in every Auditor's office in the Government.

The First Auditor has two \$1,400 clerks, out of 12; the Second Auditor, two out of 15; the Third Auditor, five out of 20; the Fourth Auditor, two out of 14; and the Fifth Auditor, two out of 10; while the Post Office Department is provided with but three out of 37!

Nay, even the present Congress, in an act approved the 9th May last, have put some of the bureaus of the War Department far above the Post Office Department, on the score of salaries! In that act they have given to the Quartermaster's Department and Subsistence Department, each a clerk of \$1,600; and sundry others to those and other bureaus at \$1,200 and \$1,000, averaging higher than the provision adopted for the Post Office Department.

In the same bill they have raised one salary in the State Department to \$1,600, and another to \$1,450; and have given one additional clerk to the War Department, at \$1,600, and another at \$1,400; thus augmenting salaries and increasing clerks. Yet, in a bill to reorganize the Post Office Department, which *reduces* the number of clerks employed in that branch of the service *at least fifteen*, cutting off *ten* in that department, *three* in the Fifth Auditor's Office, and *two* in the Comptroller's, the same House refuses to give to the remaining 80 clerks a single salary exceeding \$1,400, and only seven of them.

The Postmaster General asked \$600 for his assistant messengers; this very Congress, in the act alluded to, have given \$650 to the assistant messenger of the Treasury Department; but they propose to cut down one assistant messenger of the Post Office Department to \$400, and the two others to \$350.

The same act raises the salary of the assistant messenger of the First Comptroller's Office to \$500, being \$100 and \$150 more than proposed for the assistant messenger in the Post Office.

When it is generally conceded that clerks' salaries ought to be raised; when Congress have raised various salaries, at the present session; what justice is there in putting the Post Office Department on a footing below that which the rest now occupy? If the others ought to be raised, (and some of them have been raised,) how much more is it incumbent on Congress to place the Post Office on as good a footing as they now are!

We have one Comptroller and one Solicitor, at salaries of \$3,500; and one Comptroller, a Register, a Treasurer, and five Auditors, at \$3,000. Will any one maintain that their duties are more arduous than those of the assistant Postmasters General? The Secretary of the Navy has his three assistants in the Navy Commissioners, who are paid each \$3,500 per year, with a secretary at \$2,000, and chief clerk at \$1,600. They occupy the same relation to the Secretary of the Navy, so far as business is concerned, as the assistant Postmasters General do to the head of their department. Why should the commissioners be paid \$3,500, with a \$2,000 secretary, and a \$1,600 chief clerk, while the assistants are put down at \$2,500, and not allowed a clerk at more than \$1,400?

The foregoing tables and these remarks, will make obvious the inequality and injustice of so much of the Post Office bill as relates to salaries.

It is impossible to believe that the House of Representatives fully understood, in all its bearings, the effect of their act. If, however, the scale and rate of salaries adopted by them shall prevail, the gentlemen of the Post Office Department, though conscious of the apparent slight put upon them by being deliberately reduced in salaries below the inferior offices of the Government, will, without doubt, by their industry and fidelity, attempt to prove to their country that they do not deserve it.

This paper is prepared by one who has no personal interest in the question, with the view of placing the subject in a clear light, not doubting that a majority of Congress, having it in their power, will yet do justice. All the Post Office Department now wants, is that the department, and the proposed Auditor's Office, may be placed on as good a footing as the other chief Executive offices and the Auditor's offices now are. Is this unreasonable?

NOTE.—The printed statement above was prepared *prior* to the passage of the act of 2d July, 1836, changing the organization of the Post Office Department.

The additions in manuscript, are now made to show the actual state of salaries in the Post Office Department, and the effect of the additional allowance of 10 and 20 per cent. made to the other departments and offices.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, May 8, 1838.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
April 3, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor, herewith, to transmit a report to the Senate, in compliance with the resolution of the 9th ultimo, to be sent, with the other reports required by that resolution, to the President of the Senate.

I am, sir, with high respect,

Your obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER.

The Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
April 2, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to state, in reply to the resolution of the Senate of the 9th ultimo, that there is but one clerk employed in this office, whose annual salary for several years past has been \$800. In the year 1829, he was allowed an additional sum of \$200.

There being but one clerk in this office, most of the points of inquiry embraced in the resolution are inapplicable to this office. On comparing the duties and rate of compensation of the Attorney General's clerk with those of clerks of a similar grade of duty in the departments and bureaus, it appears to me that justice to him and the interest of the public service, require that he should receive \$1,200 per annum, according to the rates of compensation now allowed by law, and if the increase proposed by the heads of departments be made, then \$1,400. In support of this opinion, I deem it sufficient to state, that this clerk is obliged to attend the office daily, and that to perform his duties correctly and efficiently, he ought to have so much professional knowledge as to understand technical terms and the general subjects of the opinions to be copied and recorded, and, also, to make abstracts of papers for the use of the Attorney General.

Although not required by the resolution, I beg leave to add, that the salary of the messenger, (now only \$500,) who is also obliged to attend the office daily, in justice to him and to place him on a footing with other messengers of the like grade, ought, in my judgment, to be raised to \$700.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,

*Vice President of the United States,
and President of the Senate.*

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1838.

SIR: The Attorney General left Washington on Tuesday last, for New York, and will not return, perhaps, earlier than two weeks.

I beg leave, most respectfully, to inform you, that the Attorney General has only one clerk at \$800, and one messenger at \$500, in his office. All the weight of responsibility that can attach to a confidential clerk, devolves on the Attorney General's clerk; the nature of his office renders it absolutely necessary that his clerk should be not only competent, but a confidential officer.

The clerk's duties are, to write out, in fair form, all the opinions and official letters of the Attorney General; to make a record of the same; to endorse and carefully file away all official communications; to prepare his briefs, and, when called on by the heads of departments, or members of Congress, to furnish copies of the opinions, as recorded.

Permit me, sir, to remark, that my duties as clerk are not more onerous than those of clerks of my grade; but, being alone, my whole time and attention is necessarily devoted to the office; so much so, that I have never attended the debates in Congress, one day, since my residence in Washington, now more than five years.

The duties of the messenger are such as usually pertain to messengers. I beg leave to add, sir, that we both have families, and really need as much as any other officers in our situation.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD KEY WATTS.

To the Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,
Secretary of State.

The duties of the messenger are such as usually pertain to messengers. I beg leave to add, sir, that we have facilities and really need as much as any other officers in our situation. I have the honor to be, sir, most respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
RICHARD KEY WATTS

To the Hon. John Forsythe,
Secretary of State